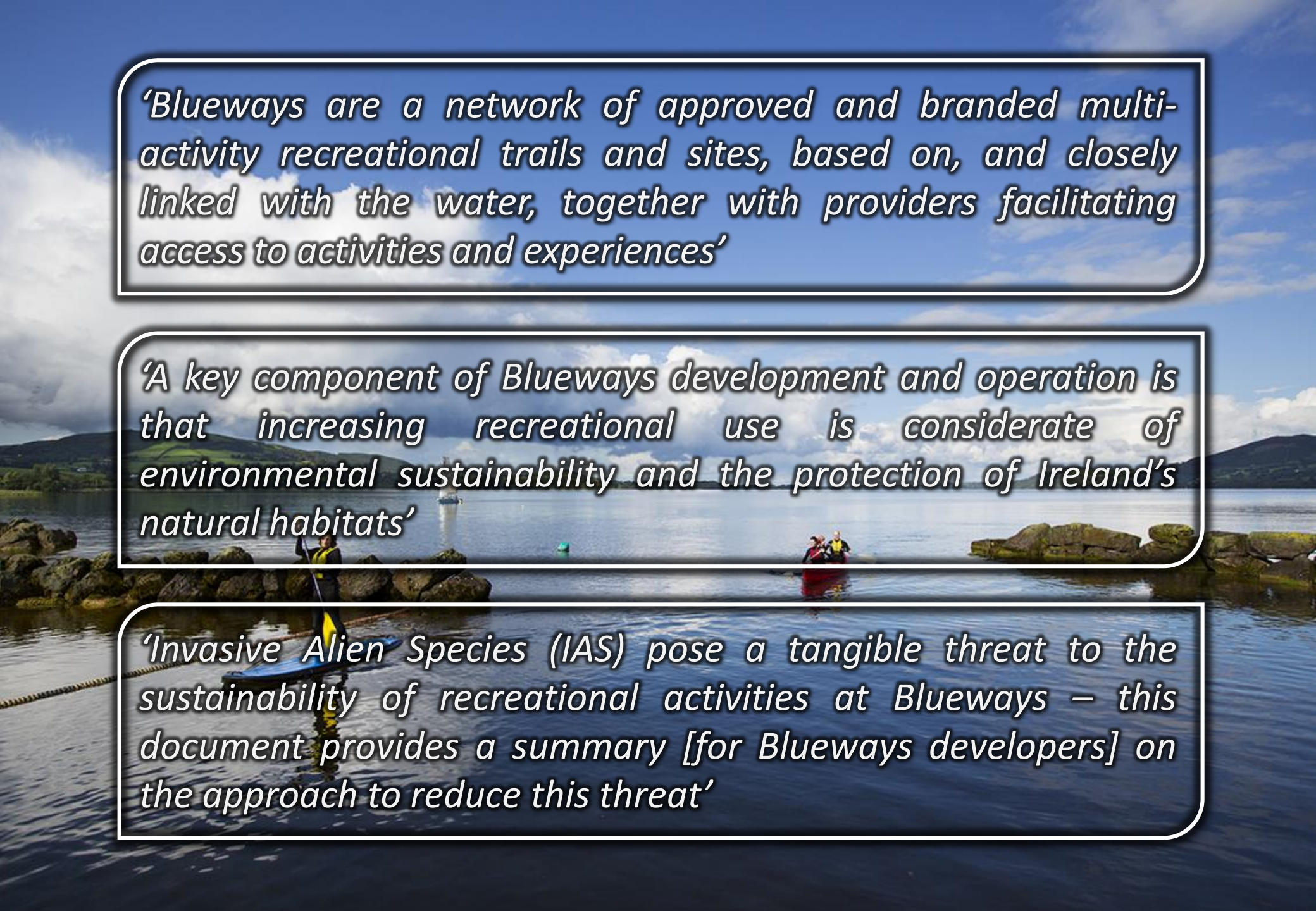




**Blueways  
Developer Biosecurity Summary**





*'Blueways are a network of approved and branded multi-activity recreational trails and sites, based on, and closely linked with the water, together with providers facilitating access to activities and experiences'*

*'A key component of Blueways development and operation is that increasing recreational use is considerate of environmental sustainability and the protection of Ireland's natural habitats'*

*'Invasive Alien Species (IAS) pose a tangible threat to the sustainability of recreational activities at Blueways – this document provides a summary [for Blueways developers] on the approach to reduce this threat'*

# 1 Introduction to Invasive Alien Species on the Blueways

Alien species are organisms (such as plants, animals and disease) that have moved into a habitat where they would not normally be found. Normally natural barriers, such as oceans and mountain ranges would prevent their spread, but as a result of human activities, these barriers are side-stepped. Often, alien species do not survive in their new location or have minimal impact on the environment. However, sometimes alien species can have destructive impacts on the environment, economy and human health. Despite their sometimes innocuous appearance, IAS are the second most serious threat to global biodiversity behind habitat loss!

## When an alien species causes harm they become an 'INVASIVE' alien species (IAS)

### How do IAS spread?

IAS are spread by human activities that connect their point of origin to the location where they have been introduced, known as pathways. There are many activities by which IAS can be spread; some are deliberate, some accidental. One of the ways that IAS can be moved is by the recreational activities that can be enjoyed on Irelands waterways and Blueways. As a Blueways developer you will be aware of the activities promoted by the Blueways, but these include non-powered water sports such as rowing, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, windsurfing, open water swimming and stand-up paddle-boarding, as well as terrestrial based activities.

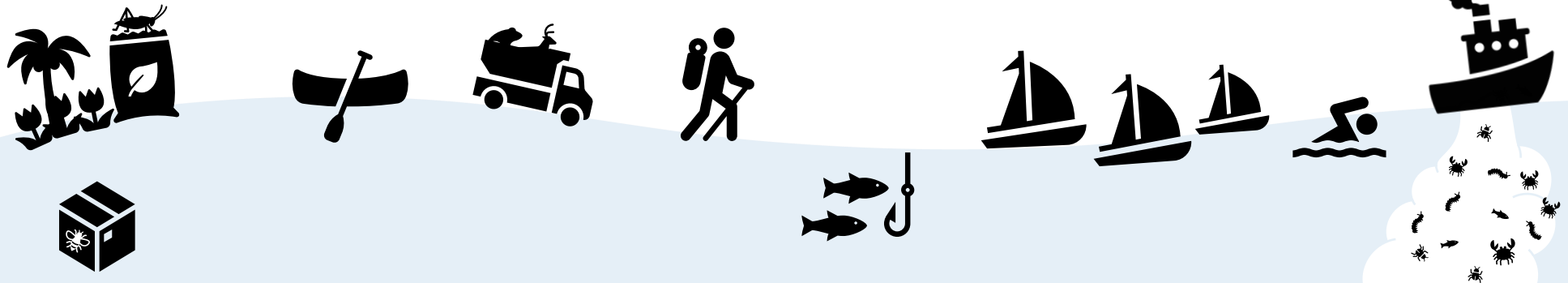
IAS can become attached to or caught in recreational craft and equipment or clothing so moving these items between waterbodies can result in IAS being transferred to a new place.

### What's the damage?

Impacts caused by IAS can be significant and wide-reaching.

- IAS harm our native species by being more aggressive or spreading disease;
- IAS change the physical nature of the ecosystem into which they are introduced, lowering water quality or the availability of nutrients;
- IAS damage infrastructure such as buildings and bridges, riverbanks and flood defences;
- IAS reduce the enjoyment and sustainability of recreational activities and can be a hazard to the health of users

It is estimated that IAS cost the Irish economy at least **€202,894,406** in damage and removal every year.





Invasive Alien Species are plants, animals and micro-organisms , moved by human activity to areas where they do not normally live.

Without natural predators or by being more adaptable, IAS can harm native species and change the function of the ecosystem.



IAS threaten the environment, the economy, human health, and the enjoyment of nature based recreational activities.

Development of sustainable nature-based recreation must include actions that reduce the spread of IAS.



# 2

## What can we do about IAS?



A lot of effort is put into the removal of IAS once they have arrived, but this is very difficult to achieve and is often incredibly expensive. Implementing pragmatic procedures and behaviours to prevent IAS from arriving, known as Biosecurity, can reduce the movement of living IAS and make recreational activities more environmentally sustainable at a much lower cost than dealing with them after they have arrived.

### Biosecurity is as simple as 'Check, Clean, Dry'

#### CHECK

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

#### CLEAN

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can paying attention to areas that are damp and hard to inspect. Use hot water (at least 45°C) or a high-pressure spray.

#### DRY

Dry everything thoroughly and leave for at least 48 hours before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for weeks in damp conditions.

#### Check Clean Dry?

Check, Clean, Dry is the primary biosecurity initiative used globally. It is already well represented across Ireland by many environmental, conservation, and sporting organisations. It provides the most appropriate approach for the Blueways.

The advice is mostly targeted towards recreational users, although it is broadly applicable to all aquatic user groups, including operational staff and professional activity providers. Check, Clean, Dry offers simple, targeted messaging for IAS vigilance and the effective cleaning of equipment used in and around water.

The campaign's format encourages personal responsibility for biosecurity; however, biosecurity is most effective if users are provided with the facilities and equipment to clean and dry equipment.



# ATTENTION WATER USERS - help stop the invasion!

**STOP  
THE  
SPREAD**

Invasive plants and animals harm our wildlife and environments. They can cause disease, block waterways, interfere with fishing and damage boats. Please help stop their spread by following the **Check, Clean, Dry** code.



Remember to check these places



**CHECK**

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

**CLEAN**

**Clean** everything thoroughly as soon as you can paying attention to areas that are damp and hard to inspect. Use hot water (at least 45°C) or a high-pressure spray.

**DRY**

**Dry** everything until it is dry for at least 48 hours before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for weeks in damp conditions.

**Disinfect** everything if complete drying is not possible.

Protect the environment and sport you enjoy



Find out more about invasive plants and animals and how you can help to stop the spread at:  
[invasives.ie/biosecurity/check-clean-dry](https://invasives.ie/biosecurity/check-clean-dry)



Remember to check these places



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oldhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage



Waterways Ireland  
Uiscebhéal Éireann Watersways Aikann

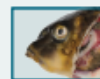
Invasives.ie  
Invasive Alien Species in Ireland

Foras na Mara  
Marine Institute

Loughs Agency  
Gníomhaireachtas na Lochanna  
PO BOX 54 Loughs

Leave No Trace

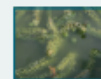
Report any invasive species you find including:



FISH DISEASES



KILLER SHRIMP



AFRICAN CURLY WATERWEED



QUAGGA MUSSEL

# 3

## Blueways Biosecurity: An Approach to Implementation

This document presents the summary of a biosecurity implementation approach, primarily for consideration by Blueways developers and operators seeking accreditation, that will help to reduce the risk of IAS spread to and from existing and newly developed Blueways. The approach is based around four principles of effective biosecurity and has been developed from the previous management of recreational activities. Specific consideration has been given to the understanding that differences in infrastructure, site physical characteristics, proximity to populated areas, and Blueways developer capacity and budget can influence how biosecurity can be delivered.

### There are five key Blueways stakeholders identified under this approach

#### The PRIMARY stakeholders are:

- **Blueways developers and operators** - individuals or organisations that are: 1) planning a recreational trail that will be accredited under the Blueways scheme; and / or 2) responsible for site operations and maintenance at an accredited Blueway. They will be responsible for the development and implementation of the site biosecurity plan(s).
- **The Blueways Partnership** - Waterways Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Tourism NI, Sport Ireland and Sport NI. The partnership oversees the development of Blueways in Northern and the Republic of Ireland; this includes setting the standards and guidance for Blueways accreditation. Included in this group are the direct associates employed by the partnership to oversee Blueways development (i.e. Blueways accreditation officers).

#### SECONDARY and TARGET stakeholders are:

- **Blueways users** – anyone undertaking recreational activities at Blueways. The project focuses on paddle sport users but also includes terrestrial users.
- **Activity providers** – Blueways affiliated businesses that deliver recreational services at a Blueway(s).
- **Biosecurity support** – individuals or organisations who have the capacity to improve biosecurity or IAS awareness at Blueways but are not directly undertaking recreational activities or involved with the development and operation of a Blueway. This could include clubs, on-site cafés and hospitality, NGBs, Local Sports Partnerships, retailers etc.



# Blueways Biosecurity: The four principles



## Effective communication and messaging

This includes mechanisms for raising awareness with Blueways users, Blueways developer and operator staff, activity providers, and others. Also, effective communication with all Blueways stakeholders to ensure collaboration, consistency, and the improvement of best practice.

**Effective training and empowerment**  
All Blueways stakeholders should be provided with training and / or empowered to effectively utilise the facilities and resources provided to achieve the goal of good biosecurity.



## Appropriate tools

Blueways users, Blueways developer and operator staff, and activity providers should be provided with the appropriate resource and proportional facilities to achieve effective biosecurity using the principles of Check Clean Dry.

**Robust biosecurity policy and management responsibilities**  
Should include on-site procedures and protocols in support of all biosecurity activities and facilities.





## 4.1 Blueways Biosecurity Principle 1: Communication and Messaging

Principle 1 of Blueways Biosecurity implementation should be to ensure that 'Blueways users' and 'Blueway developer and operator' staff have an understanding of the need for biosecurity and how to carry it out. International best practice has long used on-site signage and leafletting, as well as online outreach to communicate the main message(s). Communication strategies do not need to be complex though, and there are many resources available to help developers without requiring significant cost or particular expertise. As an absolute minimum, all Blueways developers should consider installing signage that communicates the importance of Biosecurity and gives practical guidance for Check Clean Dry procedures.

Communication and messaging must tell people what biosecurity is, how to do it, and why it matters...

### SIGNS

Signage should be the primary method of (informing / outreach to) Blueways users. Signs should communicate Check, Clean, Dry in simple activity-specific terms – ready made posters can be downloaded from '[Invasive Alien Species in Ireland](#)' free of charge, but Blueways developers and operators should consider designing signs that are more specific to the needs and considerations of their Blueway site.

### SIGNS

Location is vital. Signs and messages should be placed strategically, at locations where they will grab attention or are linked to an activity (e.g. clubhouse, launch location, site entrance and exit etc.). Plan placement so as not to overwhelm users.

### SIGNS

Signage should be checked regularly to ensure that they have not been damaged, overgrown, or removed. Remedial maintenance or replacement should be carried out as a priority.



Ensure that 'Check, Clean, Dry' signage is present as a minimum standard of biosecurity



Consider 'Check, Clean, Dry' signage that is tailored to the specific activities and is strategically placed



Consider utilising other delivery mechanisms such as on-site QR codes or text messaging services to provide further information and awareness to 'Blueways users'



Consider installing additional signage detailing site specific rules and instructions – for example, the correct use of any biosecurity facilities or washdown policy. Tailor the message to the location.



Consider engagement with any 'Activity Providers' to encourage further distribution of IAS information material to potential and existing 'Blueways Users'



Consider the message carefully! The same message may not always be appropriate. For example telling users:

**'Thanks for remembering to Check Clean Dry before you leave'**

...is useless if there are no facilities to do so.

**'Thanks for remembering to Check Clean Dry'  
'STOP the invasion'**

**'Protect our waterways from invasive alien species'  
'Do not launch dirty watercraft'**

**'Washdown facilities are provided for'  
'Look out for species X'**



## 4.2 Blueways Biosecurity Principle 1: Communication and Messaging

Although 'Check, Clean, Dry' signage is the standard biosecurity messaging, there is value in giving users further information about IAS and onsite policy. Biosecurity uptake can be improved if users know **WHY** they need to follow 'Check, Clean, Dry'. Providing specific information on individual IAS and the impact that they might have can contextualise the need for biosecurity in a more meaningful way.

### “THIS is why we need biosecurity”



Although biosecurity is best targeted at the activity level rather than by specific species, there is benefit in supporting this with easily accessible and digestible facts about IAS and their impacts. The intention is to link the need for biosecurity to the enjoyment and sustainability of the activities being undertaken. The ultimate intention being that 'Blueways users' will develop an understanding of the personal benefit of undertaking good biosecurity practice.

It is important not to overload users with too much information. IAS 'ALERTS' or information boards can be physically posted on-site, but developers could also consider mailing lists or social media outreach.



Consider implementing outreach messaging to reinforce the importance of biosecurity through specific examples of IAS and their impacts. Show users “THIS is why we need biosecurity”.



Consider dedicating a section of your webpage or engineering popups that contain IAS and biosecurity information and warnings.



Consider engaging with local community groups, press, activity providers, or biosecurity support actors (such as retailers) in an effort to reach a wider audience of users including those potential users that are yet to visit a Blueway



# Four invasive Non-Native species paddlers may encounter



Did you know there are over 50 non-native invasive species paddlers may encounter with many looking to wreak havoc across our rivers, lakes, canals and other waterways? Here are four of the most prolific villains of our waterways to give you a glimpse of some of the beasties paddlers may encounter and the devastation they can leave behind.

## Killer Shrimps



Killer Shrimps are considered to be one of the most highly invasive predators to lurk in our rivers, streams and lakes. So it's incredibly important paddlers keep their eyes peeled to help stop them from spreading any further.

**Why are they so invasive?** Killer Shrimps are voracious, so once they enter a new waterway they will quickly kill native invertebrates and small fish, altering the ecology of habitats found there. They live for about one year and are fast breeders which makes it difficult to control a colony once they've established a foothold leaving native species and habits with little chance of surviving. **Did you know a killer shrimp can survive for up to 16 days in damp paddling equipment and clothing?**

**Where are they found?** In still or slow following water often among hard surfaces and vegetation.

## Floating Pennywort



Floating Pennywort is a highly invasive non-native plant that can clog up an entire waterway in just a few weeks. The threat of Floating Pennywort is becoming increasingly concerning so it is imperative paddlers play their part in thoroughly cleaning and drying equipment every outing.

**Why is it so invasive?** Floating Pennywort can quickly dominate a waterway due to being able to grow up to 20cm per day. If left to spread then Floating Pennywort will create a dense mat across the waterway causing swamping, blockages, and crowding out native plants dense mats starve the oxygen levels, choking the life out of fish and invertebrates.

**Where is it found?** Lakes, canals, rivers and other waterways.

## Signal Crayfish



Signal Crayfish is a menace found throughout England, causing significant problems to our waterways and posing a significant native species, including the UK's native white-clawed crayfish. Paddlers can help to report any sightings of Signal Crayfish as thoroughly check your craft and equipment whilst cleaning it.

# STOP THE SPREAD

Are you unknowingly spreading invasive species on your water sports equipment and clothing?

STOP THE SPREAD

INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES

CHECK CLEAN DRY

**CHECK**

Check your equipment and clothing for live organisms - particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect.

**CLEAN**

Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly.

If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.

**DRY**

Dry all equipment and clothing - some species can live for many days in moist conditions.

Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

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

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### Have you seen a Chinese mitten crab?

- Grey-green to dark brown in colour
- Long walking legs
- Square body, up to 8cm across
- Dense brown fur on white-tipped claws
- 4+4+4 pattern of teeth around the front of the shell with notch between eyes
- Juveniles may lack fur on claws

Please Report Sightings to:

**science@nw-ifca.gov.uk**

**01524 727 970**

Please take photos, log where found, and retain any crabs in a sealed container for further identification.

North Western  
**IFCA**  
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

For more information on invasive non-native species and disease in the marine area you can find the NWIFCA Biosecurity Plan at [www.nw-ifca.gov.uk](http://www.nw-ifca.gov.uk) or visit [www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry)

Produced by the NWIFCA October 2016



# INVASIVE SPECIES WEEK



## HELP STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

To avoid spreading aquatic invasive species **BEFORE launching ... BEFORE leaving:**

- Remove aquatic plants and aquatic animals
- Drain lake or river water away from the landing
- Dispose of unwanted live bait in the trash

**It's the Law ... Do Not:**

- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on PLANK boards
- Launch a motorboat or place a trailer in the water if it has aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species attached
- Transport water from adjacent waters

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

www.nonnativespecies.org  
Produced by GMR Bony, Mae Wade and Vicky White of RPS

## Floating Pennywort

**Species Description**

**Scientific name:** *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*  
**AKA:** Dail-convoy amrolif (Welsh), *Hydrocotyle nova zealandiae*  
**Native to:** North America  
**Habitat:** Emergent or floating on the surface of still or slowly moving freshwater

**Free-floating or rooted:** The characteristic leaves and growth form help to make this plant easy to identify. It is found mostly in the south-east of England and occasionally in the north-west of England and Wales. Spreading rapidly.

**First introduced:** 1990 as a result of discarded plants from garden ponds. Can grow up to 20cm per day and may quickly colonise a waterbody forming thick mats and impeding water flow and amenity use. May out-compete native species by blocking out light, causing desiccation, and/or by introducing species from reaching the water surface and reducing water temperatures.

**Flowering pennywort is listed under Schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 with respect to England, Wales and Scotland. It is an offence to plant or otherwise cause the species to grow in the wild.**

For details of legislation go to [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/244444](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/244444)

**Key ID Features**

**Green habitability**

Leaves can be floating or emergent

**Polystachya**

**Free water**

**On water**

Slimy, kidney-shaped leaves with notched edges. Regularly broader than long

# INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT

These waters are designated as INFESTED WATERS and contain:

## Zebra Mussels

Produced by GMR Bony, Mae Wade and Vicky White of RPS

## 5 Blueways Biosecurity Principle 2: Training

**Principle 2 of Blueways Biosecurity implementation should enable users to utilise any facilities and resources provided to achieve effective biosecurity. While providing the general information, described by Principle 1, to relevant stakeholders will aid in developing understanding and awareness of the issues surrounding IAS and measures that can be taken, there are times when more in-depth or practical training or knowledge is required.**



Activity providers can provide a direct route of awareness-raising to new Blueways users. However, they need to be fully aware of all procedures and facilities on site to enable them to be biosecurity advocates. Blueways developers and operators could direct activity providers to online training resource, provide practical training on biosecurity procedures and policies, and possibly monitor their compliance to the site biosecurity requirements.



It is important that Blueways developers and operational staff are given practical guidance and protocols on maintaining biosecurity during their routine operational duties. It must be noted that their activities are likely to differ from the recreational-type activities of Blueways users and activity providers (e.g. maintenance), and so will require different considerations and instructions. Developers could provide their staff with biosecurity field kits, or implement procedures to reduce risk of IAS transfer, for example: 1) heightened Check Clean Dry; 2) planning site visits from low to high risk sites; 3) biosecurity audits and user surveys; 4) continual improvement for training; and 5) biosecurity meetings / updates



Specialist contractors, such as those undertaking ecological / IAS surveys or engineering work should be asked to provide contractual assurance that they will work in a biosecure way. Depending on the nature of the work this may include the provision of an IAS management plan. Contractors should always be provided with the site biosecurity plans, or a brief 'rules for contractors' guidebook, well in advance of the visit. Upon arrival contractors should be thoroughly briefed by the 'Blueway developer and operator' or designated associate, and biosecurity procedures reiterated. It may be necessary to accompany contractors during the visit and / or provide them with a biosecurity kit; however, this can be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Consider the risk that building or other works could have on the movement of IAS



Consider providing biosecurity kits to all operational staff and visiting contractors



Consider making biosecurity a contractual obligation for contractors and associates



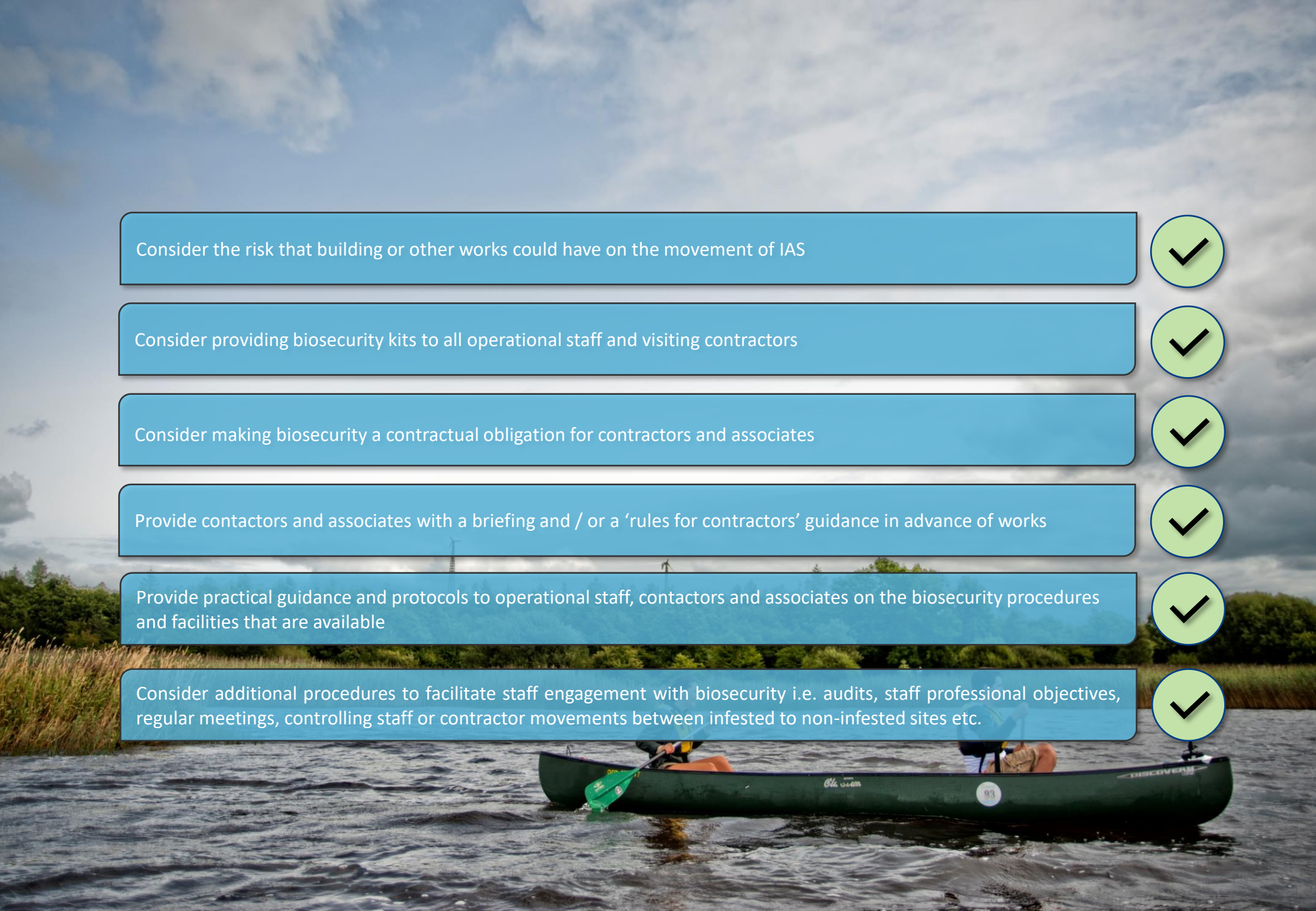
Provide contractors and associates with a briefing and / or a 'rules for contractors' guidance in advance of works



Provide practical guidance and protocols to operational staff, contractors and associates on the biosecurity procedures and facilities that are available



Consider additional procedures to facilitate staff engagement with biosecurity i.e. audits, staff professional objectives, regular meetings, controlling staff or contractor movements between infested to non-infested sites etc.



# 6 Blueways Biosecurity Principle 3: Facilities and Equipment

**Where possible, Blueways users should be provided with access to high quality and well-maintained cleaning facilities and equipment. Such systems should be installed to support the implementation of Check Clean Dry protocols. Cleaning facilities do not always need to be elaborate or expensive, but they should be appropriate to the task for which they are intended.**

## Design consideration 1 – Drainage

- Drainage is the most critical consideration for an effective and biosecure washdown facility.
- The availability of drainage will dictate if ‘Check and Clean’ is encouraged to be applied by ‘Blueways users’ when arriving at or leaving the site.
- If drainage that isolates waste water from flowing [directly] back to the water body is not available, then cleaning should only be applied when users are leaving the site and washdown on arrival should be prohibited.
- If effective drainage is available, then biosecurity can be applied to movements both on and off of the site.
- Drainage could be as simple as a ditch dug into the ground to redirect run off away from the waterbody; however, the most appropriate type of drainage for isolated / remote sites is considered to be a hardstanding area, which drains directly to a soakaway.
- There may be times when IAS waste needs to be disposed of. This needs to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## Design consideration 2 – Water supply

- A clean heated water connection should be the gold-standard for Blueways biosecurity; however, this may not always be feasible.
- ‘Blueways developers and operators’ can consider alternative arrangements, for example on-site tank storage and distribution.
  - Intermediate Bulk Carriers (IBCs) are 1000L plastic containers intended for the transport or storage of liquids. These offer a cheap option for semi-permanent placement or possibly trailer mounting.
  - Towable Water bowsers are more costly but are a product more intended for the movement of water at a site-level and could be utilised more effectively to provide clean water around different sites; particularly at times of increased demand, such as events or high season.
- Arrangements for filling the on-site tanks would need to be made, and it would be important for ensuring that washdown facilities were always functional.



**Remember that Blueways stakeholder Health and Safety should always be the priority. Biosecurity is important, but not at the cost of someone's health.**

Consider the implementation of physical washdown facilities which are appropriate to the needs of the site and capability of the Blueway developer and operator.



Consider the placement of facilities to ensure that they provide 'Blueways users' with the easiest usage opportunities



Consider the most effective drainage option. Waste should be prevented from entering the waterway where possible.



Consider the provision of a clean water supply – either through permanent mains connection or temporary supply / storage.



Consider Health and Safety as the primary factor in the implementation of all biosecurity.





## 7 Blueways Biosecurity Principle 4: Management and Policy

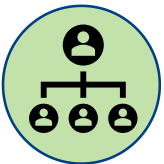
**While communications, training and facilities are the major components of a successful biosecurity strategy, additional supporting measures should be considered to further enhance the delivery and up-take of biosecurity practices at Blueways.**



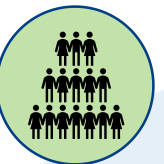
All Blueways developers and operators should prepare a **BIOSECURITY PLAN** for their Blueway. Biosecurity consideration is a criteria under the Blueways accreditation scheme and is applicable for any existing Blueway and those under development. The **Blueways biosecurity recommendation tool** will be discussed later, but it supports Blueways developers and operators in the creation of their site plan. All recommendations produced by the tool still need to be reviewed by the developer (following additional guidance) in order to produce a feasible and appropriate list of options. These options then form the basis of a biosecurity plan which should be further refined based on site knowledge and awareness to define an objective-driven programme of improvements for a specific site.



The activity providers that operate at some Blueways are understood to be subject to **operational permits**, which govern their activities on-site. Although primarily covering the provision of service and Health and Safety considerations, amending these permits to **include biosecurity** (and general sustainability) requirements would provide a sensible mechanism to hold activity providers to account should they be working in a manner that is not conducive to good biosecurity.



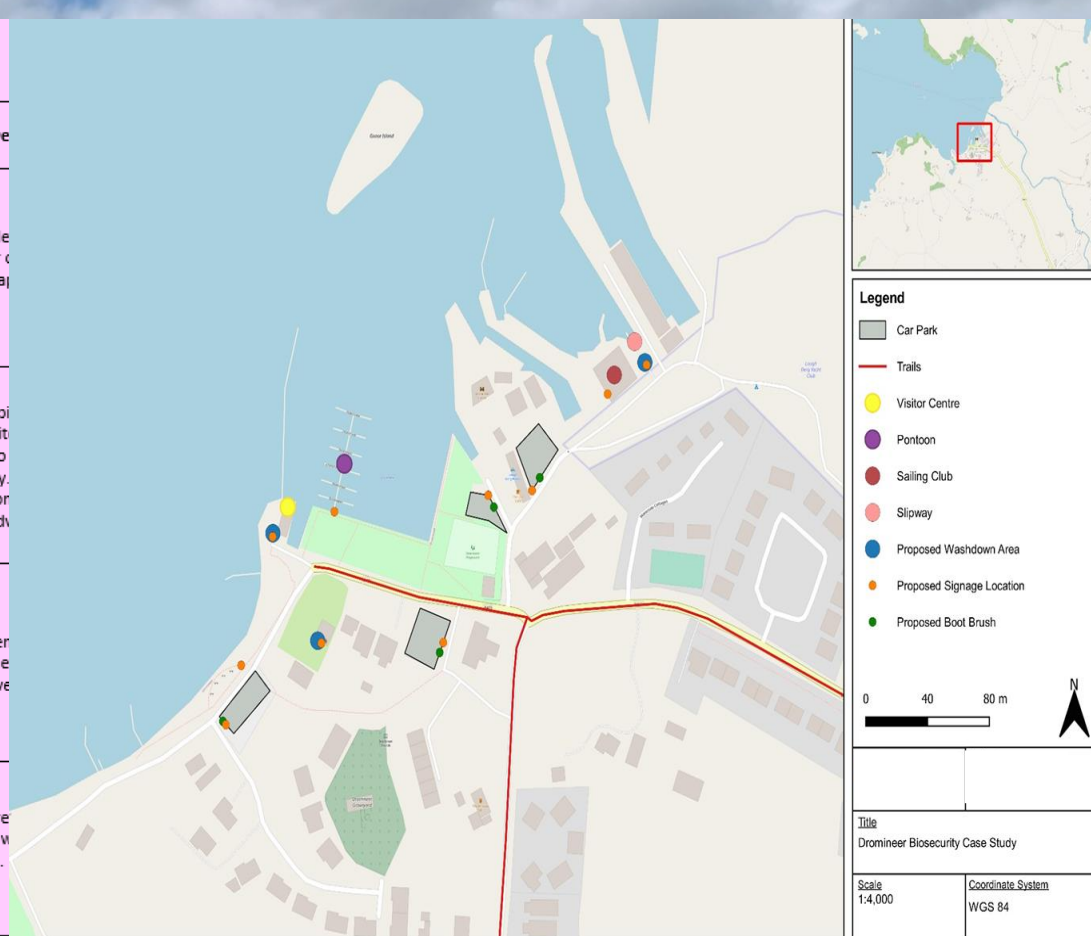
Biosecurity should always be managed in a **consistent and strategic way**. Whether it's regarding the installation of washdown facilities or the implementation of effective biosecurity communication and education, it is important that 'Blueways developers and operators' monitor and maintain biosecurity at their Blueway, and that messaging [to activity providers and users] is effective. Biosecurity should not be considered a static exercise. **Compliance and efficacy should be monitored**, and approaches adapted as required. Blueways **developers and operators should define a role / point of decision making for the ongoing management of biosecurity** at their site(s). This high-level role can be at whatever scale the developer deems appropriate but should hold the responsibility for implementing and managing the biosecurity strategy as well as owning and updating strategic biosecurity plans.



Engaging members of the public as **volunteers** can provide an effective tool to improve and support freshwater biosecurity, pest control, and conservation. This could be considered as: 1) a stand-alone programme, similar to programmes previously run by Leave no Trace, or 2) the engagement of local community groups, such as the Public Participation Networks. There are also **other existing personnel** working at the Blueways sites that could be utilised as **site guardians**, for example grounds keepers, lock operators, council staff, and the Waterways Ireland inspectorate, to name a few. Empowering them with training and a defined role could provide additional support at the Blueways sites, to assist users undertaking Check, Clean, Dry and raise general awareness of IAS. Simple considerations such as branded T-shirts, publicity material, and the provision of biosecurity kits can dramatically improve the impact that site guardians could have.

## 2) Biosecurity Recommendations

| Recommendation  | Overarching Recommendation(s)  | Relevant Principle | Reference in Technical Document | Details   |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Pressure washer | <p>Consider the inclusion of physical washdown facilities in your biosecurity plan which are appropriate to their needs and capability</p> <p>Consider the placement of facilities to ensure that they provide 'Blueways users' with the easiest usage opportunities</p> | Principle 3        | Section 7.2.3, page 41          | High pressure water cleaning used on watercraft, or a similar approach may not be appropriate for all equipment.  |
| Hose pipe       | <p>Consider the inclusion of physical washdown facilities in your biosecurity plan which are appropriate to their needs and capability</p> <p>Consider the placement of facilities to ensure that they provide 'Blueways users' with the easiest usage opportunities</p> | Principle 3        | Section 7.2.3, page 41          | This is the most basic biosecurity measure that can be provided at a site. It allows users to quickly apply clean water to their equipment in a quick and efficient way. It should also be developed upon when implementing more advanced measures. |
| Water heater    | <p>Consider the inclusion of physical washdown facilities in your biosecurity plan which are appropriate to their needs and capability</p> <p>Consider the placement of facilities to ensure that they provide 'Blueways users' with the easiest usage opportunities</p> | Principle 3        | Section 7.2.2, page 40          | Despite not being essential, the inclusion of water heaters improves the effectiveness of many biosecurity measures.  |
| Soakaway        | <p>Consider appropriate drainage options, ensuring that the risk to the waterbody is reduced as much as possible</p> <p>Consider the placement of facilities to ensure that they provide 'Blueways users' with the easiest usage opportunities</p>                       | Principle 3        | Section 7.1.2, page 37          | Drainage system where a sub-ground level pit with a filter and surrounding substrate. A soakaway or sewerage system is required.  |



There is no “one-size-fits-all” for Blueway biosecurity. An effective Biosecurity Plan should take into account the specific details of a Blueway site and refine the plan to meet the needs.

Blueways developers and operators know their sites better than anyone; their knowledge is invaluable to the determination of how biosecurity can be appropriately implemented.

# 8

## Blueways Biosecurity: Other Considerations and Suggestions

The four Principles of Blueways Biosecurity provide a basis for the sustainable operation of Blueways with regards to effective biosecurity. There are, however, other considerations that Blueways developers and operators may wish to consider. Blueways developers and operators know their sites better than anyone – biosecurity development must utilise this knowledge to ensure that biosecurity implementation is effective and appropriate.

### It is important that biosecurity development is flexible and not rigid in design or implementation

#### Other considerations and suggestions:

- Encourage users to primarily use rented equipment or supply equipment for the site.
- Encourage and support ‘activity providers’ with their ongoing understanding and practice of biosecurity.
- If being moved between sites, rented equipment (like wetsuits, lifejackets, PPE etc.) should be cleaned with a disinfectant such as hypochlorite (i.e. Milton) and dried between uses.
- Consider undertaking IAS vigilance for a ‘casual and low-effort user-led’ monitoring programmes and report any suspected IAS sightings to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (<https://www.biodiversityireland.ie>).

#### Other considerations and suggestions:

- Review current policy on the entry and use of dirty equipment and watercraft. If there is none, consider introducing.
- Clean any general or operational equipment, such as buoys, pontoons or landscaping tools, for IAS before moving them to or from another site.
- Create a joined-up approach to biosecurity throughout and between sites - most biosecurity options for recreational activities are general and widely applicable to, for example, different classes of watercraft and activities.



A photograph of three kayakers on a calm lake. The kayakers are wearing gear and paddling. The water is dark blue with ripples. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. The background shows a line of green trees.

Developers and operators should consider specific site policies or rules; such as:

‘DO NOT LAUNCH A DIRTY WATERCRAFT HERE’

or

‘YOU COULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE SITE FOR NOT FOLLOWING BIOSECURITY RULES’

Although such policies can be challenging to enforce, this should not stop rules being made and communicated to users.

## 9 Blueways Biosecurity: Supporting Developers and Operators

**Although biosecurity can be simplified to the four key principles we have described, it can be challenging for new developers to determine what is appropriate and proportional for a specific site and the activities it hosts. The approach summarised by this document is supported with a biosecurity decision making tool and Blueways biosecurity plan development guidance to enable effective consideration of Blueways biosecurity.**

**With support from the Blueways Partnership, Blueways developers are empowered to make effective biosecurity decisions**

Some Blueways developers and operators may not feel confident enough to fully develop a biosecurity plan without assistance. In order to support effective decision making and provide **more detail on specific options**, developers will be provided with access to the **Blueways Biosecurity Development Tool** and its supporting guidance.

The process gives Blueways developers and operators the ability to self-assess their site (step 1), produce a constrained output of biosecurity recommendations using the biosecurity tool (step 2 and 3) and finally develop them into a biosecurity plan which is dependent upon **site-specific and organisation considerations**.

Blueways developers and operators are then guided through a further biosecurity plan development process to refine the recommendations, based on site and organisational knowledge and awareness, to create an **objective-driven programme of biosecurity implementation**.

Blueways developers and operators will be responsible for drafting and implementing their own biosecurity plans; however, these can be completed in consultation with the 'Blueways Partners' or delegated associates. The biosecurity plan development process can be performed at any stage of Blueways development. The tool is focused on recreational activity and makes no distinction between existing or planned Blueways. As long as the developer has awareness of the infrastructure and activities that are going to be / are present at the site, the tool will produce suitable, constrained recommendations.

There is no standard for the minimum level of biosecurity that is required to achieve Blueways accreditation. However, Blueways developers and operators are encouraged to manage their sites in a sustainable way that minimises the increased risk of IAS transfer that comes with increasing recreational activities.

Blueways Biosecurity development is based around the refinement of a set of broadly applicable biosecurity recommendations, provided by the Biosecurity Tool. Recommendations from the tool are selected to suit the specific needs of a Blueway and the operational capacity of the developer and operator. Full guidance is provided in the 'Biosecurity Plan Development Guidance' document but the process is summarised below.

BIOSECURITY  
1  
STEP

Gather the information required for biosecurity planning, such as the recreational activities present / expected at the site, the level of infrastructure available, capacity for construction access, and existing biosecurity.

BIOSECURITY  
2-3  
STEP

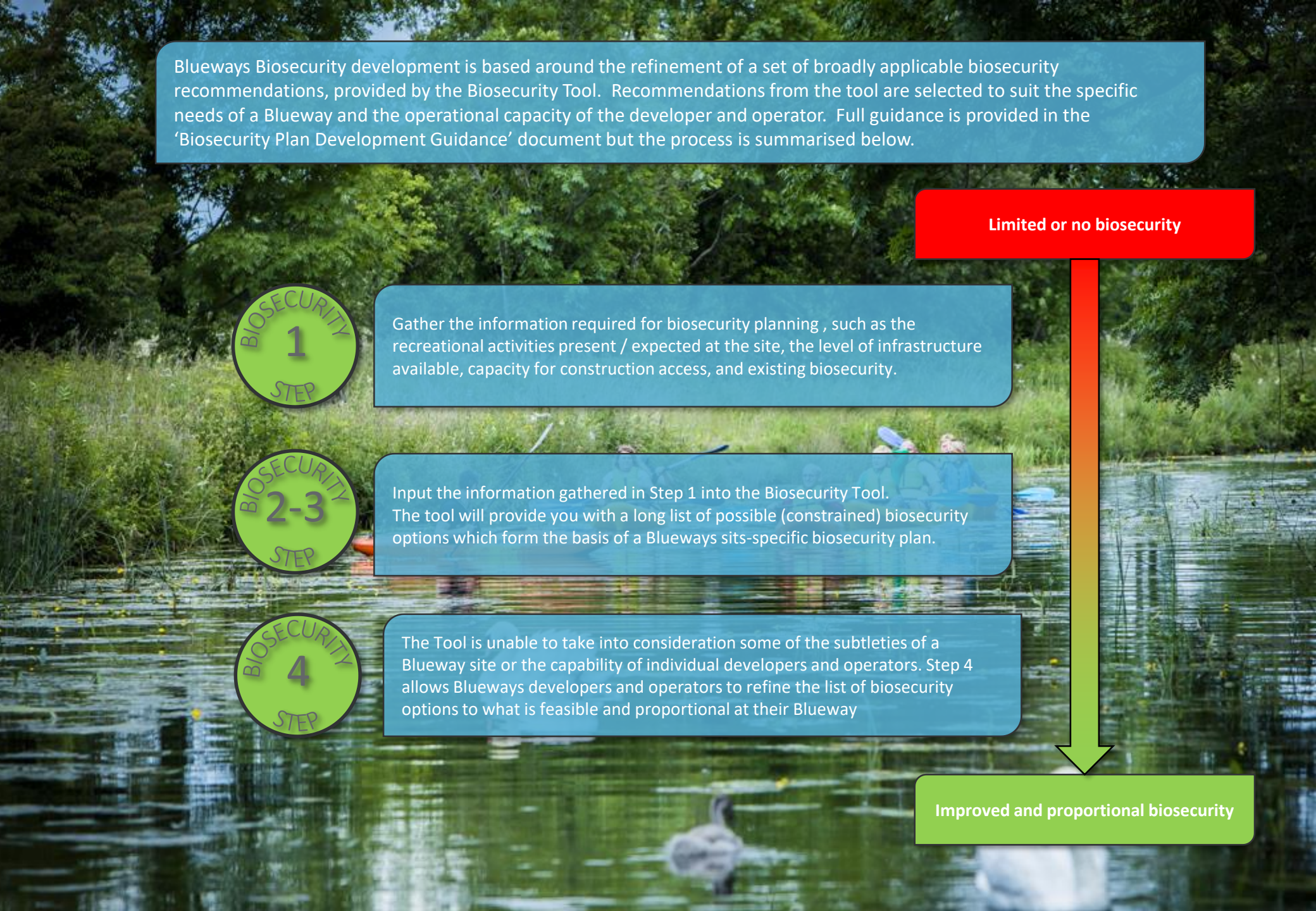
Input the information gathered in Step 1 into the Biosecurity Tool. The tool will provide you with a long list of possible (constrained) biosecurity options which form the basis of a Blueways site-specific biosecurity plan.

BIOSECURITY  
4  
STEP

The Tool is unable to take into consideration some of the subtleties of a Blueway site or the capability of individual developers and operators. Step 4 allows Blueways developers and operators to refine the list of biosecurity options to what is feasible and proportional at their Blueway

Limited or no biosecurity

Improved and proportional biosecurity



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## Blueways Biosecurity: Summary

**It is the ambition that the island of Ireland will be amongst the world-leaders in: “Tourism that takes full account of its current and future ... environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities” (*Blueways Developer Toolkit, Section 8 Sustainability*).**

**Blueways developers should consider effective and proportional biosecurity to improve the sustainability of recreational activities at Blueways**

- IAS can have harmful impacts on Ireland’s waterways and native biodiversity. The recreational activities undertaken at Blueways can contribute to the movement of IAS into and around Ireland.
- Blueways developers must consider the implementation of biosecurity practices to prevent the spread of IAS and reach the Blueways sustainability objectives.
- Check Clean Dry is the core biosecurity methodology used internationally and should form the basis of all biosecurity frameworks at Blueways
- The primary Blueways [biosecurity] stakeholders are:
  - Blueways Developers and Operators – who are responsible for biosecurity planning and implementation at their Blueway
  - The Blueways Partnership – who are responsible for overseeing Blueways development and accreditation. The Blueways Partnership may offer some support to Developers and Operators to develop biosecurity at Blueways sites
- There are four key principles of Blueways biosecurity implementation:
  - Communication and messaging
  - Training and empowerment
  - Appropriate tools and facilities
  - Biosecurity policy and management
- The principles are holistic and should be considered together; although, not every Blueway will require extensive facilities or implementation
- There are other developer-specific factors that also need to be considered when creating a biosecurity plan (see the biosecurity development plan guidance)
- The Blueways Partnership can support and guide developers through the process of biosecurity planning in combination with the Blueways Biosecurity Development Tool.
- With the Tool and guidance Blueways developers and operators will be able to effectively consider biosecurity needs and develop a feasible and site-specific biosecurity plan.



The next step for Blueways Developers and Operators is to access the Biosecurity Tool and biosecurity plan development guidance, gather the appropriate information and draft a plan. You can contact the Blueways Partnership or Accreditation Officer for further information or support

