

1. Document purpose and scope

This document sets out the Biosecurity Policy of the Sow & Penk Internal Drainage Board hereafter referred to as the Board.

2. Policy statement

The Board will comply with all legislative requirements, statutory and other obligations, following best practice guidelines, relevant to our activities within the sphere of water level management.

The Board acknowledge the significant importance of having a rigorous biosecurity policy whilst undertaking its water level management function. Effective biosecurity measures demonstrate to ratepayers, other authorities, contractors and members of the public that the Board takes its role and responsibilities seriously and care about the environment. This policy will help prevent the spread of Invasive Non Native Species (INNS), pests and diseases and will, therefore, benefit biodiversity and the wider environment.

3. Aims

The aim of this policy is to maintain standards of biosecurity on, sites whilst undertaking field operations, thereby helping to keep water bodies, animals, crops, forests, woodlands and other habitats free from disease and to prevent the introduction and spread of disease or INNS. It is accepted that risk from pathogens and INNS is volatile and dynamic and our biosecurity policy, and hence procedures, reflect this fact.

The Board will follow the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) '*Check, Clean, Dry*' campaign, and other similar guidance produced by governments of the areas in which it operates, to help reduce and minimise the risk of spreading INNS, pests and diseases.

We will aim for each area in which we work to have in place biosecurity procedures appropriate to the prevailing hazards and consistent with differing levels of risk, for example:

- Working in waterbodies where known INNS species occur (HIGH)
- Working near waterbodies where known INNS species occur at certain times of the year (MEDIUM)
- Working 'in the dry' on sites where there are no known INNS issues (LOW)

The Board will provide instruction, training, resources and support needed to its contractors in order to effectively implement this biosecurity policy.

4. Responsibilities

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

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

All contractors are required to have read, acknowledge and agreed to adhere to this policy.

5. Implementation

This policy is implemented through the associated biosecurity procedures as documented in the;

None Native Species Secretariat document - **Biosecurity for everyone**

Specific biosecurity procedures may have to be established to take account of local circumstances, differing land uses, physical constraints, and the prevalence of INNS, pests and disease.

Biosecurity is acknowledged within our risk assessments.

Our biosecurity procedures apply equally to

- Administration staff;
- Sub-consultants;
- Contractors
- Visitors.

6. Certification

By Order of the Sow & Penk Internal Drainage Board

Certified by Craig Benson, Clerk

This document is next scheduled for review July 2027.