



Biosecurity Policy

Approval date: 20/04/2026	Approved by: Clerk
Applies to: Board Members, officers and employees of the Board.	Linked Documents: Environmental Policy Watercourse Maintenance Policy.
Frequency of review: 3 years	Next review date: April 2029

1. Purpose

This policy sets out the North Kent Marshes Water Level Management Board's commitment to preventing the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) through its water level and flood risk management activities.

It applies to all Board members, staff, contractors, and anyone acting on behalf of the Board during operations that may pose a biosecurity risk.

2. Policy Statement

Invasive non-native species (INNS) pose a significant threat to aquatic ecosystems, biodiversity, and the economy. The Board recognises its responsibility to prevent the spread of INNS during its operations and to comply with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, under which failure to take reasonable precautions may result in enforcement action.

The Board is committed to integrating biosecurity into routine practice and ensuring that operations are delivered in a way that protects the environment and complies with legal obligations.

This policy is implemented through the Board's Standard Operations Maintenance Manual and is aligned with the ADA Model Biosecurity Procedures.

The Board also supports collaborative action by sharing relevant data with national and local partners involved in invasive species management.

3. Responsibilities

The Board

- Approves and periodically reviews this policy.
- Ensures that contracts and procurement documents include appropriate biosecurity requirements where risk is present.

Clerk/Engineer and Works Manager

- Oversee implementation of the Biosecurity Procedure and ensure that site-specific risks are assessed and addressed.
- Maintain a record of INNS sightings and coordinate response measures.



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Environmental Officer or Technical Lead

- Provide training and advice on best practice.
- Liaise with external partners (e.g. Natural England, EA, local authorities) on INNS issues and record sharing.

Staff and Contractors

- Comply with all biosecurity procedures and site-specific risk controls.
- Report suspected sightings of invasive species immediately.

4. Implementation

This policy is implemented through the Biosecurity Procedure and Standard Operations Maintenance Manual. Key requirements include:

- All staff and contractors must receive biosecurity training appropriate to their role.
- Equipment, tools, and PPE used in wet environments must follow the Check–Clean–Dry procedure before moving between sites.
- Sites with confirmed or suspected INNS must be flagged and managed using enhanced controls.
- INNS sightings must be reported to the Works Manager or Environmental Officer.
- Site-specific risk assessments must identify biosecurity risks and mitigation measures before works begin.

5. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if required due to changes in legislation, best practice, or operational needs. Review outcomes will be reported to the Board and updates issued to staff and contractors as needed.

Version Control

Version	Date Approved	Summary of Changes
1.0	20/04/2026	Initial policy approved