

# General Environmental Management Plan (GEMP) – Biosecurity (On Land)



TG-NET-ENV-521	General Environmental Management Plan (GEMP) – Biosecurity (On Land)		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 1.02	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: May 2024	Review Date: May 2032

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## 1 References

The documents detailed in Table 1.1 – Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Documents below, should be used in conjunction with this document.

**Table 1.1 - Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Documents**

Reference	Title
PR-NET-OPS-025	Foot and Mouth Disease

## 2 GEMP – Biosecurity (On Land)

### 2.1 General Principles of Soil Management Process

- 2.1.1 Biosecurity is important when any agricultural land, hill ground and moorland that carries stock, farm steadings, forestry and woodland, rivers and lochs and aquaculture units is entered where there is a risk of spreading pest or disease.
- 2.1.2 Biosecurity good practice will minimise the risk of contamination and the spread of animal and plant diseases, parasites and non-native species. You cannot always see disease causing agents, plant pests, parasites and non-native species and they can be picked up and carried on clothing, footwear, on vehicles and equipment to other locations.
- 2.1.3 The main risk identified for our work has been identified as the transfer of potato cyst nematode and clubroot (a brassica disease) in arable land. These are predominately spread by contaminated soil, plant matter or dung.
- 2.1.4 There is also the risk of spreading insect pests, or bacterial, viral and fungal tree pathogens in woodland areas, or causing the spread of non-native invasive species or injurious weeds.
- 2.1.5 Additionally, there are several diseases capable of being transmitted from animals to humans including Lyme Disease, Leptospirosis, E. coli O157 and Salmonella. Good hygiene practice will significantly reduce the risk of contracting or spreading a disease.

### 2.2 Biosecurity Control Stages

- 2.2.1 The stage of biosecurity control that should be practiced will vary according to:
  - Type of work you are carrying out
  - Use of land you are entering e.g. is it used to grow crops such as brassicas or potatoes
  - Livestock movement, some sites are governed by stricter disease control measures
  - Landowner / occupier as well as project specific requirements
  - The known presence of current pests and diseases or restrictions applied to land or premises

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2.2.2 The stages (Stage 1 and Stage 2) described below are based on Scottish Government guidelines but have been tailored to the type of works normally undertaken by us or our contractors.

2.2.3 Unless there is a specific risk or requirement Stage 1 should suffice (see below). The control measures are only the minimum recommended and the implementation of any reasonable biosecurity procedures that may go beyond this, due to the nature of the property, must be considered.

## 2.3 Biosecurity Control – Stage 1

2.3.1 For non-intrusive works e.g. site visits, walkover surveys and intrusive works in low risk areas i.e. where there is no know reasonable risk of the transmission of disease or pests.

- Ensure the landowner has been notified and is aware of the works/surveys to be undertaken
- Ensure all personnel have been briefed and understand what is required of them and the possible consequences of not adhering to the measures explained
- Ensure footwear is clean (visually free from soil and debris) before entering site. If necessary, brush and wash with water
- Enquire with landowner whether Stage 2 Biosecurity Control must be adopted, i.e. clean and disinfect footwear using appropriate disinfectants (please refer to Farmland Biosecurity Policy for further guidance). If request then implement Stage 2 Biosecurity Control.
- Ensure vehicles, plant and tools (including temporary access materials such as 'bog mats' and track way panels) to be used on the site is cleaned at the commencement of the works and thereafter is kept clean and, in particular, remove any accumulated mud, especially when moving between holdings
- Make use of any facilities provided at the premises to clean footwear if required by the contractor or land manager
- Keep access to a minimum, do not access areas unnecessarily and if practical do not take vehicles onto premises and keep to established tracks
- Respect any notices or instructions
- Food, Litter and packaging must be removed from site to prevent animals from eating or getting tangled up in material, litter etc
- Ensure that gates are left as they are found, as per the Scottish Government's Biosecurity Code. For more information on specific diseases refer to Scottish Government web pages

2.3.2 The minimum equipment to be carried in the vehicle should include a stiff brush, water sprayer with sufficient water to clean equipment and footwear/clothing, a hoof pick to remove mud between boot treads and suitable container.

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## 2.4 Biosecurity Control – Stage 2

- 2.4.1 Ensure landowner has been contacted well in advance of any works taking place. Establish whether there are any control measures needed which relate specifically to the area you are working. For intrusive works i.e. ground-breaking operations in areas which have been deemed to be high risk. Also, for all non-intrusive work e.g. site walkovers where there are specific landowner or project requirements for this level of biosecurity non-intrusive works e.g. site visits, walkover surveys and intrusive works in low risk areas i.e. where there is no known reasonable risk of the transmission of disease or pests.
- 2.4.2 High risk areas are those fields which have been either identified as having the potential to be used to grow brassicas (oil seed rape, cabbage, turnips, swede, etc) or potatoes, or any other areas deemed to be high risk by the contractor.
- Mitigations as per Stage 1
  - Clean and disinfect footwear using appropriate disinfectants (please refer to Farmland Biosecurity Policy for further guidance)
  - Ensure vehicles, plant and tools (including temporary access materials such as 'bog mats' and track way panels) are adequately cleaned and disinfected using appropriate methods. Pay particular attention to the tyres and wheel arches. This is doubly important when moving from one farm to another to reduce the risk of spreading disease
  - Contractor machinery and footwear must be cleaned between various areas within an individual holding, where it is reasonably required and there is evidence of definitive disparities in disease risk between different areas of the holding.
- 2.4.3 If the stages 1 and 2 are not anticipated to be sufficient e.g. there is a known outbreak of a contagious pest or disease, please refer to PR-NET-OPS-025 Foot and Mouth Disease, and up to date industry or Government guidance for enhanced biosecurity control.
- 2.4.4 In all cases, reference should be made to the most up to date and relevant industry or Government recognised guidance on suitable biosecurity measures. Advice on the type of disinfectant to use can be obtained from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) website: <http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/>

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### 3 Revision History

No	Overview of Amendments	Previous Document	Revision	Authorisation
01	New Document Created	N/A	1.00	Richard Baldwin
02	Review of existing document	TG-NET-ENV-521 (Rev 1.00)	1.01	George Leggat
03	Review of existing document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amend requirements under 2.2.3 for reasonable additional biosecurity measures</li> <li>- Add in further provision re contractor machinery and footwear at 2.4.2</li> <li>- Update industry and Government guidance reference at 2.4.3 and 2.4.4</li> </ul>	TG-NET-ENV-521 (Rev 1.01)	1.02	George Leggat
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