

BIOSECURITY MEASURES AT EVENTS

Few can be unaware of the concerns over the impact of Sudden Oak Death or Ash Dieback, but there are many other Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) that some of us are likely to come into contact with without knowing of their presence

Guidance issued previously followed that issued by concerned Governmental agencies, and initially included a recommendation to use an appropriate disinfectant. This may have been fine for those working in the countryside, and whose employers could provide the relevant safety clothing and training, but it was not appropriate for those undertaking casual recreational activities. This has now been recognised by the Food and Environment Research Agency and the Animal and Plant Health Agency whose advice can be summarised as:

- Check
- Clean
- Dry

We should all be **checking** our clothing and equipment before leaving the car park to ensure that there is no visible plant material either on our shoes or our clothing. If there is any plant material it should be removed and left on site. We should also knock off any soil or leaf litter.

Once home thoroughly **clean** your footwear and clothing and then leave it to **dry** for as long as possible. Many of the INNS are able to survive in damp corners for very long periods of time, but are less able to survive if the equipment is thoroughly dried.

Should landowners or their agents suggest that all arrivals should have their kit disinfected they should be reminded that such mass treatments would fall under the provisions of the Control of Pesticides Regulations and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations. However they should also be advised that the measures being taken meet the advice given by those agencies mentioned at the end of the second paragraph