



Summary of cost saving calculations with £6 million annual investment into invasive non-native species.

May 2024

The next Government should implement the recommendations of the Environment Audit Committee’s 2019 report and triple the invasive species biosecurity budget to £3 million and provide a further £3 million to fund a permanent dedicated invasive species Inspectorate, on par with other biosecurity Inspectorates.

Why invest?

Over 20 years, under the current business as usual scenario with no additional resourcing the invasion of 42 new invasive species will cost the UK an additional £3.12 billion.

In comparison, by increasing spending on invasive species and the permanent funding of an inspectorate, costs of new invasive species will be reduced to £594 million.

Over 20 years, for an additional £120 million investment, **this will save an estimated £2.5 billion.**

That is a return investment of **£21 for every £1 spent.**

By 2044	Total number of invasive species in GB	Additional investment on INNS over 20 years	Additional cost of new invasive species	Money saved through successful eradication	Total cost of new invasive species over 20 years
Business as usual (£2.5 million in resources)	353	£0	£3.12 billion	£0	£3.12 billion
Increased resourcing and a permanent dedicated inspectorate (£6 million)	319	£120 million	£1.34 billion	£743 million	£594 million



The scale of the invasive species threat

CABI (2023) estimated that invasive species cost the UK approximately £4 billion every year, but the figure drops to £1.9 billion when excluding fungi in line with GB Non-Native Species Strategy as fungi is instead covered by the Plant Health biosecurity regime.¹ The GB Non-Native Species Secretariat website states that the annual cost of INNS to the UK is nearly £2 billion.

Each year 10-12 non-native species become established of which 10-15% will become invasive.² There are approximately **311** INNS currently established in GB.³

Under a business as usual scenario the total number of established INNS is likely to increase to **353** by 2044. The GB Non-Native Species Secretariat estimates that 36-48 (an average of 42) new INNS will establish over the next 20 years.⁴

The GB Programme board indicated that increasing funding for the INNS regime could prevent 24 new invasive species from establishing, resulting in only 18 new invasions compared to 42. Increased resourcing would also enable 10 established invasive species to be successfully eradicated. By 2044, this would result instead in **319** invasive species being established in GB, 34 fewer established invasive species than would otherwise be the case.

The Environmental Audit Committee recommended tripling the invasive species biosecurity budget to £3 million in 2019.⁵ There is also the need for an additional £3 million specifically for the non-native species Inspectorate.

Using these estimates, the savings from increasing the INNS budget was estimated:

¹ <https://www.cabi.org/news-article/invasive-non-native-species-cost-uk-economy-an-estimated-4bn-a-year-new-cabi-led-study-reveals/>

² <https://www.nonnativespecies.org/assets/Uploads/The-Great-Britain-Invasive-Non-Native-Species-Strategy-2023-to-2030-v2.pdf>

³ In 2020 the GB Non-Native Species Information Portal estimated there to be 303 INNS established in Great Britain. <https://www.nonnativespecies.org/assets/NNSIP-Scorecard-2020.pdf>

⁴ <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/environmental-audit-committee/invasive-species/written/104755.pdf>

⁵ Environmental Audit Committee. October 2019. Invasive species <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201919/cmselect/cmenvaud/88/88.pdf>

Year	Business as usual (2.1 new invasive species establishing per year)	Increased resources (0.9 new invasives establishing per year and 0.5 invasive species eradicated)
2024	£13,504,823	£2,572,347
2025	£27,009,646	£5,144,695
2026	£40,514,469	£7,717,042
2027	£54,019,293	£10,289,389
2028	£67,524,116	£12,861,736
2029	£81,028,939	£15,434,084
2030	£94,533,762	£18,006,431
2031	£108,038,585	£20,578,778
2032	£121,543,408	£23,151,125
2033	£135,048,232	£25,723,473
2034	£148,553,055	£28,295,820
2035	£162,057,878	£30,868,167
2036	£175,562,701	£33,440,514
2037	£189,067,524	£36,012,862
2038	£202,572,347	£38,585,209
2039	£216,077,170	£41,157,556
2040	£229,581,994	£43,729,904
2041	£243,086,817	£46,302,251
2042	£256,591,640	£48,874,598
2043	£270,096,463	£51,446,945
2044	£283,601,286	£54,019,293
Total additional cost over 20 years	£3,119,614,148	£594,212,219

Assumptions:

- The establishment of 18 new invasive species over 20 years would occur incrementally. An average invasion rate was calculated assuming 18 INNS/20 years = 0.9 new invasive species invasions per year under the increased spending budget compared to 42 INNS/20 years = 2.1 new invasive species under business as usual. However, it should be recognised that invasive species establishments are not linear and therefore there may not be any invasions in one year and multiple in others.
- That a new invasive species has a negative cost instantly from arrival.
- Each invasive species has the same cost in the UK.



- The current cost of established invasive species in GB will remain the same. This overlooks the likely increases in the distribution and abundance of established invasive species over 20 years which will result in greater costs. By increasing resources and forming a dedicated inspectorate it would be anticipated that established invasive species would be more effectively managed and therefore increased costs would likely be lower compared to BAU scenario. This was not accounted for in the estimate.
- The invasive species establishment rate is based on GB Programme Board estimates, however, with new trade routes being established, the rate of new invasive species establishing in GB could be higher.
- An average eradication rate of an invasive species was applied with 10 INNS projected to be eradicated over 20 years. 10 INNS/ 20 years is 0.5 species per year.

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