

Protect Rathlin Island

Did you know Rathlin Island is ferret free and is working towards rat free status?

Biosecurity - Everyone's Responsibility

Rathlin Island is home to internationally important seabird colonies and sensitive habitats. Biosecurity helps keep these species safe by preventing invasive non-native species (INNS) such as rats and ferrets from accidentally arriving on island and spreading once here. A single stowaway can cause lasting damage.

Why Biosecurity Matters

If introduced, INNS can decimate bird populations by eating eggs and chicks. Vulnerable wildlife includes seabirds such as Atlantic Puffins, Kittiwakes and Manx Shearwater. Biosecurity protects Rathlin's wildlife, livelihoods and natural heritage.

Most non-native predators arrive accidentally, carried by people. Whether you are visiting or working on Rathlin, delivering goods, travelling by boat or ferry, you can help prevent harmful species arriving.



Kittiwake



Manx Shearwater



Atlantic Puffin

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The LIFE Raft project is funded and supported by:



How Do Non-Native Species Reach Rathlin?

Non-native species often arrive by accident, hidden in:

- Boats and ferries
- Cargo, tools and building materials
- Bags, boxes and vehicles

They only need one journey to become a serious problem.

Before You Travel CHECK for Rat and Ferret Signs...



Your Boat

Decks, lockers,
ropes and
covers.



Your Vehicle

Pop the
hood, check
underneath.



Your Cargo

Freight,
equipment,
supplies.



Your Baggage

Bags, food
containers,
clothing.

Early action can prevent serious damage

See Signs of a Rat or Ferret on Rathlin?

- Report it immediately - Contact the CMAP Biosecurity and Engagement Officer on 07860 942862 or scan the QR code to Report a Sighting.



See Signs of a Rat or Ferret on a Vessel?

Examples include droppings, gnaw marks, unusual sounds or sightings.

- DO NOT travel to the island
- DO NOT throw overboard
- Report it immediately to ferry staff, site managers or island contacts. Scan the QR Code to Report a Sighting

FIND OUT MORE

CMAP at <https://rathlin360.com/biosecurity-cmap/>
LIFE Raft at <https://rathlin360.com/life-raft-project/>