

University of Leeds Research Farm

Biosecurity Policy

Introduction

This biosecurity policy and process must be followed at all times when visiting or intending to visit The National Pig Centre at the University of Leeds Research Farm. The University of Leeds Research Farm steering group has identified it to be an important and appropriate measure for this Facility. Key motivations for this include:

- Protection of pig herd from disease:
 - The farm receives a wider range of visitors than typical commercial pig farms in the UK i.e. students and researchers, therefore pigs may face an increased risk.
 - The farms location close to major road networks makes it vulnerable to diseases.
- Biosecurity is mandatory practice in European facilities and as a leading UK facility, it is important to be at the forefront with stringent, appropriate measures in place.
- Perception of the Farm: biosecurity demonstrates professionalism and a high degree of care for the animals.
- Several potentially devastating notifiable diseases are circulating in Western Europe i.e. African swine fever and Swine Dysentery.

48 Hour Pig Free Policy

It is a mandatory requirement that all visitors sign in and certify that they have not visited other farms/facilities or have experienced diarrhoea or vomiting within 48 hrs of arriving at the UoL Research Farm facility.

Indoor Herd Bio Security Zones

Three clear 'zones' have been developed for the purpose of biosecurity. The process a user will go through will depend on the level of access they require. These 'zones' are outlined in the table below and defined clearly on the attached plans. Further guidance is also outlined regarding typical users:

Zone	Area covered	Process / procedure	Example users
Zone 1: Low Biosecurity (Green)	Reception and Visitor Centre: this includes car park and food delivery areas, the event space; offices (x2) and meeting room which sit outside of the biosecure area i.e. before the showers.	This area can be accessed by site users without undergoing any biosecurity processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm staff • Researchers • Students • Event attendees • Virtual tour recipients • Couriers • Feed suppliers
Zone 2: Medium Biosecurity (Amber)	Areas within the ancillary building which sit within the biosecure boundary i.e. beyond the showers. This will include much of the on-site lab / workspace.	Users accessing these areas of the Ancillary building may not have direct contact with the pigs however will still be required to change into 'clean' shoes (crops) before entering the medium security zone. If shoes cannot be changed (for health and safety reasons) they should be washed in a disinfectant bath on entry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Staff • Researchers • Tour attendees • Students • Cleaners • IT support • Contractors • Maintenance staff
Zone 3: High Biosecurity (Red)	Areas with (potential for) direct contact with the pig herd. Zone 3 begins at the Ancillary building door. Zone 3: Farrowing building	All users must shower in before entry to Zone 3 and change into Farm clothing and shoes (wellies). Again, if shoes cannot be changed (for health and safety reasons) they should be washed in a disinfectant bath on entry. When entering the Farrowing building, all users must change into red overalls and red shoes (wellies).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Staff • Contractors • Maintenance staff • Researchers • Students • IT Support • Tour attendees
Zone 4:	There is a 'grey area' (by the rear service gate) which does not sit within the biosecure zone but is an entry point to Zone 3.	This area will not be included in general biosecurity guidance and anyone requiring access will be asked to report to the main entrance to be advised by Farm staff on how to proceed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm staff • Researchers • Slurry collection • Pig deliveries • Contractors • Tour attendees

Indoor Herd Dry Sow/Gilt Holding Areas (Wise Warren Farm)

Currently Dry Sows and gilts are housed at Wise Warren Farm. Post completion of the new facility the same area will hold just gilts. Whilst this area is not within the biosecurity zones above it should be treated broadly in the same way as the principles set out in 'Zone 2' for the indoor herd as below:

<p>Wise Warren Holding Area: Medium Biosecurity (Amber)</p>	<p>Areas and buildings behind locked gates and fences at Wise Warren Farm buildings. Clearly defined by on site signage.</p>	<p>Access to these areas should be limited to farm staff where possible. Users requiring access will be asked to report to the main entrance at Spen Farm to be advised by farm staff on how to proceed. Users accessing these areas will be required to change into 'clean' shoes/boots before entering. If shoes cannot be changed (for health and safety reasons) they should be washed in a disinfectant bath on entry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm staff • Pig deliveries • Contractors • Students • Researchers • Tour attendees
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Outdoor Herd Biosecurity

The location of the outdoor herd will vary potentially as frequently as annually but will typically be located in two fields. Whilst these areas are not treated in the same way as the indoor biosecurity zones above they should be treated in broadly the same way as the principles set out in 'Zone 2' for the indoor herd.

<p>Outdoor Herd: Medium Biosecurity (Amber)</p>	<p>Fields behind locked gates and fences. Clearly defined by on site signage.</p>	<p>Users requiring access will be asked to report to the main entrance at Spen Farm to be advised by farm staff/researchers on how to proceed. Users accessing these areas will be required to change into 'clean' shoes/boots before entering. If shoes cannot be changed (for health and safety reasons) they should be washed in a disinfectant bath on entry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Staff • Researchers • Students • Contractors • Maintenance staff • Tour attendees
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Key User Guidance

It is acknowledged that there are several different complexities around access for different site users and so the below information supplements the above use of the 'zone' access principles.

These are listed below:

Farm staff

- Farm staff accessing Zone 3 will be asked to shower prior to entry each working day.
- Farm staff will ensure they have appropriate clean clothing and boots for entering Zone 3.
- Farm staff will have additional clothing appropriate for entering and working in farrowing buildings.
- If during the day a staff member leaves the Indoor Facility (defined by the areas covered by zones 1 – 4) and returns they will be expected to shower again. This is particularly important if they have come into contact with the outdoor herd.

Visitors

- Zone 1
 - Visitors attending Zone 1 only will not be required to shower nor will their footwear need to be disinfected.
- Zone 2
 - Visitors attending Zone 2 will not need to shower in to the facility.
 - Visitors will need to change footwear to those provided by the facility.
- Zone 3
 - Visitors attending Zone 3 will need to shower in to the facility.
 - Visitors will need to change footwear, wear clean clothes and the provided overalls.
- Outdoor Herd
 - Visitors will need to change footwear to those provided by the facility.

Contractors

- Contractors will need to be made aware of biosecurity processes in advance and what is required of them. A separate guidance document exists to address this covering the below principles:
- Zone 1
 - Contractors working in Zone 1 will not be required to shower nor will their vehicles or tools need to be disinfected.
- Zone 2
 - Contractors working in Zone 2 will not need to shower in to the facility.
 - Contractors will need to change footwear or have existing footwear disinfected.
 - Equipment/supplies will not be disinfected but they should be clean and not have visited another farm within 48 hours.
 - Use will need to be made of onsite equipment, where practical, over the use of outside tools.
- Zone 3
 - Contractors working in Zone 3 will need to shower in to the facility.
 - Contractors will need to change footwear or have existing health and safety footwear disinfected, wear clean clothes and the provided overalls.
 - Equipment/supplies will not be disinfected but they should be clean and not have visited another farm within 48 hours.

- Use will need to be made of onsite equipment, where practical, over the use of outside tools.
- Other large significant equipment will be disinfected on entry.
- Outdoor Herd
 - Contractors will need to change footwear to those provided by the facility or have existing health and safety footwear disinfected.
- Note separate guidance regarding vehicles
- Equipment kept on site will be owned (and tested) by the University.

Vehicle access

- The default position is that farm vehicles based and used in Zone 3 must remain in that Zone. Other farm vehicles should not enter Zone 3.
- In the unlikely event a vehicle exits Zone 3 or another vehicle needs to access to Zone 3, the wheels of the vehicle will need to be disinfected on entry via the service gates. A disinfectant jet wash will be required and this will be undertaken by farm staff.
- Entry of non-Zone 3 vehicles will only be granted at the discretion of farm staff.
- Note guidance relating to Zone 4 and the Wise Warren Holding Area.
- Visiting vehicles should not enter outdoor herd areas without prior approval from farm staff or researchers

Emergency Maintenance / repairs

- In the case of Emergency call out's i.e. Maintenance / Repairs, there may be a requirement to override the 48hr 'pig free' Policy. The implications of this would need to be considered and approved by the Farm Manager and Farm Research Manager. Zone access requirements should still be followed.

Emergency Services

- Access for emergency services will always be granted, with all biosecurity access requirements overridden.

Cleaners / Site care takers

- Cleaning contractors will ensure a supply of clean towels and clothes utilising the laundry arrangements on site.
- Cleaners should only work within Zone's 1 and 2. There will be no access requirement to Zone 3.
- The showers are the boundary between the biosecure and non-biosecure zones. The cleaners and cleaning practices will need to take account of this.

Zone 4 Access

- Zone 4 is a fenced area between Spen Common Lane and biosecure Zone 3 (by the rear service gate). It does not sit within biosecure zone 3 but is an entry point to it. This will not be included in general biosecurity guidance and anyone requiring access will be asked to report to the main entrance to be advised by Farm staff on how to proceed.