

# Avian Influenza

## Outbreak Timeline

November 2020 to March 2021



## Introduction

**Before the United Kingdom was declared avian influenza (AI) free on the 3rd September 2021, AI was spreading rapidly through UK farms. The spread was not only causing significant disruptions for farmers and consumers across the country, it was impacting huge numbers of livestock nationwide.**

The impact that outbreaks can have on farms can sometimes be felt at a national level, with farmers having to depopulate their entire flocks, calling animal welfare into question. For a large part of 2020 and 2021, farmers were faced with incredibly tough decisions, as the implications of an outbreak affects both their flock and livelihood.

In the presence of a notifiable disease, like AI, farmers legally must inform the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). Once APHA has been notified, farmers lose control of their farm and intense surveillance measures are applied in an effort to contain the outbreak, preventing local wild birds from also falling victim.

### An Ongoing Problem

Despite the UK being declared free of HPAI H5N1 in September, there are a number of zoonotic influenza viruses that cannot be eradicated, like HPAI H5N8, and HPAI H5N5, which means these strains are often recurring during migration seasons and continually adapt. These strains, which are often found in wild birds, pose low risks to commercial flocks but can still lead to highly-pathogenic outbreaks.

Farmers must understand that AI outbreaks pose a significant threat to animal welfare, business practises, profitability and reputation with both commercial and operational impacts.

For years, Livetec has been involved in every notifiable disease outbreak in the UK. As a trusted partner, we are there to support the animals, farm staff and governing bodies navigate these intense situations.

Biosecurity is any farm's best line of defence against disease outbreak. Livetec works as a partner to farms across the UK and Ireland to develop robust biosecurity contingency plans, building resilience into operations.



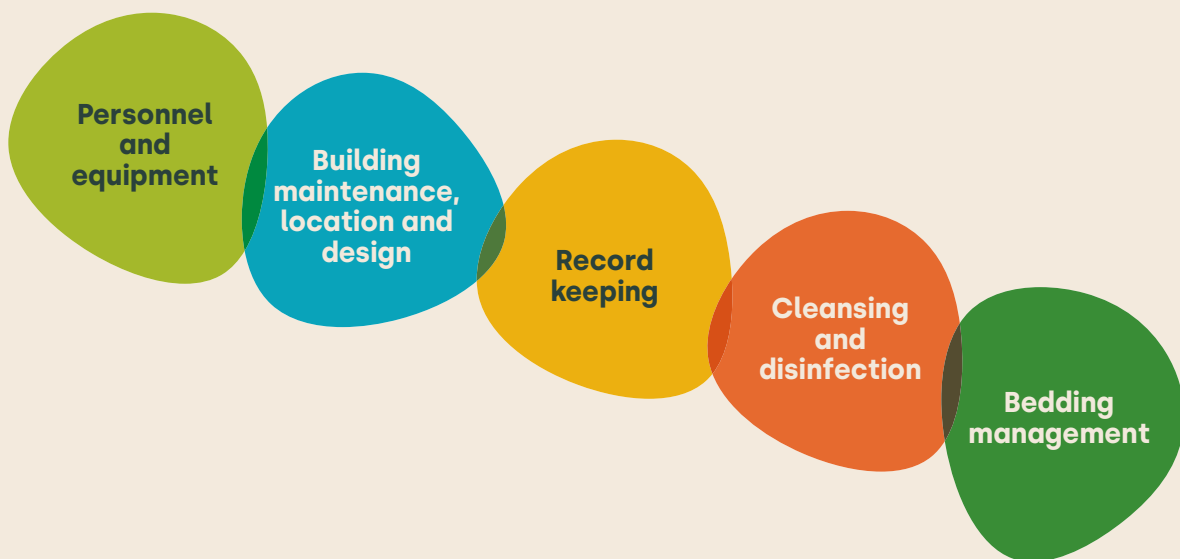


## Reduce the risk of an outbreak

A common theme identified amongst the following cases was a lack of robust biosecurity, which is a managed approach to preventing the spread and introduction of disease.

Excellent biosecurity measures and protocols remains any premises' best defence against all and any disease outbreak.

## Key components of biosecurity



## Livetec are biosecurity experts

At Livetec, we know that outbreaks can happen to anyone at any time, which is why we are actively working with farmers across the UK as a partner, to support and help implement personalised biosecurity services and contingency planning to prevent outbreaks.

But, should an outbreak occur, Livetec offers a range of depopulation solutions, tailored to your exact situation to support you and help you to resume your normal operations.





## Kent: The start of an outbreak

**3rd November 2020**

On November 3rd, the Livetec Operations team was deployed to the south of England as a result of a suspected avian influenza outbreak, also known as bird flu, on a farm in Kent. A particularly challenging case, the infected premises was home to a mixed flock of nine different species of birds including **ducks, geese and chickens**, all of which are susceptible to AI.

Due to Livetec's continued involvement and range of supportive measures for notifiable diseases, our presence was requested on site. A PCR test had determined that **the mixed birds had fallen victim to AI**, and so the farm had to undergo emergency depopulation measures.

After a **full valuation**, the Livetec Operations team were able to use years of experience to determine the best measures for depopulation. Shortly thereafter, a cleansing and disinfection stage was applied to the premises to completely eradicate all traces of the disease.

An investigation concluded that **on-farm biosecurity measures were non-existent** in this case. The lack of preventative measures had allowed for disease incursion, which was most likely as a result of contact with wild birds. Due to this, it can be assumed that had the farm used a bespoke biosecurity strategy from Livetec, they could have significantly reduced the likelihood of an outbreak.

The report also concluded that there were **no cleansing or disinfection measures**, a lack of proper food storage and poor building maintenance, further supporting the idea that had there been biosecurity measures and support in place, **this outbreak might have been avoidable**.

Ultimately, laboratory results confirmed that the more than 500 birds resident had been exposed to the **H5N2** strain of AI, the first case with this strain of the season.

## Cheshire

3rd November 2020

The **second commercial outbreak** of avian influenza in the UK was found on a medium size chicken broiler breeder rearing unit in Cheshire, with the **H5N8** strain spreading through the flock of over 14,000 chickens on site.

The Livetec team arrived on site on the 3rd November to assess the situation, and following this began to mobilise our on-farm operations team and equipment to carry out the most suitable method of emergency depopulation.

**Within one day**, the team had successfully completed the emergency depopulation, ensuring that the highest standards of welfare and care were met.

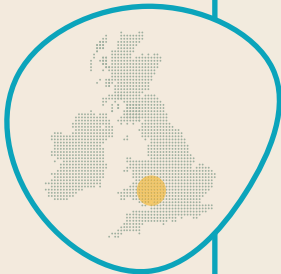
After the emergency depopulation was completed, Livetec initiated the **first stage of the cleansing and disinfection** process. This was then followed by a second stage of cleansing and disinfection carried out and paid for by the premises.

Once the enhanced measures were met, the farm was able to **provide evidence to APHA** and receive permission to resume operations and rotate in a new flock.

A thorough investigation of the property found that the site's **biosecurity protocols and practises were poor**. The evidence suggested that the two major contributing factors were a substandard pest control plan and a lack of on-farm maintenance, which led to a disease outbreak.

Had sufficient biosecurity measures and protocols been in place and effectively followed prior to the AI season, this **outbreak likely could have been prevented**.





## Herefordshire

10th November 2020

On the 10th November 2020, Livetec was called to a farm in Herefordshire after an avian influenza outbreak was suspected on a farm which was home to over **46,000 broiler breeder chickens**. This was the second outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in the UK in a week, sparking fears across the country.

With AI suspected on site, APHA imposed restrictions and contacted Livetec to carry out emergency depopulation procedures. As a **key partner to APHA and DEFRA**, the Livetec team acted with the utmost levels of professionalism and care to diagnose the most appropriate course of action and carry out the measures.

Over the course of five days, the highly experienced Livetec Operations team completed a **full depopulation** and enacted the initial stages of cleansing and disinfection throughout the farm, including the poultry sheds. This allowed the secondary phase of cleansing and disinfection to take place.

Using our years of experience and expertise, the Livetec Operations team were able to help progress the farm towards the **lifting of surveillance and restricted zones**.

The results of a full investigation established **indirect contact with wild birds** as the likely cause, which could be due to a lack of operational and procedural biosecurity measures. Enhanced **biosecurity measures** would have reduced the impact and likelihood of this outbreak.

## Leicestershire

23rd November 2020

The fourth case of avian influenza in the UK was detected at a **tourist attraction** in Leicestershire in mid-November, which had been closed to the public since the 5th of the same month. Upon a report of suspicion of AI, **APHA imposed restrictions forbidding movement** on the premises to halt the spread of the disease throughout the farm and into neighbouring areas.

After a full valuation of the birds, the Livetec Operations team arrived on to establish and facilitate the necessary measures for emergency depopulation, starting the procedures on the 23rd November and **completing them within two days.**

The presence of a range of species meant this was **a challenging site to manage**, with chickens, ducks, peacocks and quail all resident on farm. Livetec's emergency depopulation measures are designed to be agile and adaptable, allowing our Operations team to review a range of options and determine the most appropriate method of emergency depopulation under the circumstances. In this case, the **birds of prey centre** that is present on site was a separate bio-secure site, and so managed to escape the emergency depopulation measures.

The infected unit was then thoroughly disinfected, preventing any additional spread of the notifiable disease.

After the outbreak and an epidemiological investigation, **poor biosecurity was established as the cause** of the outbreak and the rapid spread. There was a severe lack of PPE, cleansing and disinfection procedures between sheds, with a high likelihood of **direct or indirect contact with wild birds** carrying AI.

In this case, bespoke structural biosecurity measures could have lowered, if not prevented the likelihood of an outbreak and both a great **financial and reputational loss.**





## North Yorkshire

29th November 2020

On the 29th November, the Livetec team were called to a turkey farm in North Yorkshire due to a confirmed case of notifiable avian influenza. The infected site was part of a **complex of three farms** that operated as a single entity, with **shared equipment and staff** across each of the three premises.

An assessment, conducted by APHA on a select number of poultry in different sheds, officially confirmed the presence of **H5N8 on-farm**. The strain was quickly spreading through over 25,000 turkeys housed on the premises and was the second case affecting turkeys since the start of the outbreak.

Arriving on the same day, the Livetec Operations team quickly began the necessary procedures, using our on-farm depopulation products and services. Over a period of **four days**, the team were able to carry out the emergency depopulation, followed by **cleansing and disinfection procedures** which would allow the farm to progress to the lifting of APHA restrictions and resume normal operations.

Extensive investigations found that on-farm biosecurity measures were poor, which led to the **direct or indirect contact with other infected poultry** in adjacent premises or wild birds, causing the disease outbreak. In addition, a wide range of **additional biosecurity protocols were missing** on-farm, not limited to cleansing and disinfection practises, building maintenance, visitor tracking and vermin control.

It is highly likely that with Livetec's disease biosecurity and contingency plans, they would have had effective measures and protocols put in place to significantly **improve biosecurity and mitigate the risk of a disease outbreak**, as well as minimising operational disruption, financial losses and reputational impact.

## North Yorkshire

### Early December 2020

In early December, Livetec were called to a farm in North Yorkshire as an outbreak of avian influenza was suspected on site. Mobilising quickly, the Livetec Operations team arrived on site the next day, where it was confirmed that over **13,000 of the farm's turkeys** had been exposed to high path HPAI H5N8.

By the time Livetec arrived, the farm had already been subject to restrictive measures by APHA, including a limit on movement and a **10km surveillance zone**.

Required on site to support the necessary on-farm emergency depopulation, the Livetec Operations team completed the measures **over a three-day period**. Upon finalising the depopulation, the first of two stages of **cleansing and disinfection** was implemented, which is an APHA requirement following an outbreak.

Ultimately, following an investigation to identify the cause of the infection, it was established that the **biosecurity measures on the farm were well below-par**. Following the report, it can be assumed that the farm could have likely mitigated the risks of the outbreak and minimised operational downtime by taking a **proactive approach to their operations**, supported by a range of Livetec's technical services, like a bespoke biosecurity strategy.

The report concluded that in addition to **several poor biosecurity practises**, the most likely cause for infection was contact with wild birds. Wild birds were able to access the sheds due to **a lack of building maintenance**, which again could have been easily identified using Livetec's consultancy services.





## Norfolk

**5th December 2020**

On December 5th, Livetec were called to a commercial turkey facility in Norfolk, The facility which was home to **29,000 birds**, had received confirmation that AI was present on site and quickly spreading through the flock.

The Livetec team mobilised to the site, **arriving within 48 hours** and quickly began to identify and apply the most suitable method of depopulation. For each circumstance, Livetec acts with the utmost levels of welfare and care, choosing the best method from our scientifically-backed **on-farm depopulation operations** and products.

Within **six days**, the emergency depopulation was completed, closely followed by stringent disinfection and sanitisation throughout the infected poultry sheds, helping the farm to **progress towards resuming normal operations**.

Throughout the outbreak, findings were compiled in order to determine **the cause of the outbreak**, along with the possible dates for the start of the outbreak. The report concluded that although **indirect contact with wild birds** was the likely source of infection, there was also a number of biosecurity failings.

The rest of the findings identified that **poor building maintenance** allowed wildlife to enter the poultry sheds and there was little to no cleansing and disinfection practises in place to **stop staff spreading the virus** from the local wild bird population.

**Had this farm been biosecure**, with the correct protocols in place, this outbreak could likely have been avoided. Using Livetec's bespoke biosecurity strategies, premises can build resilience into their operations.

## Norfolk

### Early December 2020

In the same month, there was another suspected outbreak of **HPAI H5N8 in Norfolk**, prompting a call to the Livetec team. The premises in question was home to a wide range of mixed poultry, including **chickens, ducks and geese making it a very challenging case**. AI is a disease that affects poultry and so was rapidly spreading through the range of birds on the site.

APHA were already present on the premises upon Livetec's arrival and had imposed a restriction on movements on and off the farm. **After a full valuation**, the Livetec Operations team were able to begin the necessary measures to depopulate the premises, using the most appropriate on-farm method. **The emergency measures were applied within 48 hours**, to the highest standards of welfare and care.

Despite being a particularly challenging case due to the range of poultry on site, the Operations team was able to adapt due to our **emergency depopulation service**.

To further stop the spread, the Livetec team supported the premises through the initial stage of cleansing and disinfection, applying all necessary measures, in preparation for the **second stage as required by APHA**.

In this case, an investigation found that the infected **poultry was able to freely mingle with wild birds** such as ducks and geese, indicating **a severe lack of biosecurity**. Failings in this area identified direct or indirect contact with wild birds as the most likely source of the infection.

Had the premises followed biosecurity protocols, it's **highly likely that the outbreak could have been prevented**. With a bespoke Livetec biosecurity strategy, the premises could also have avoided the loss of both their birds and operations.





## Norfolk

December 2020

As 2020 drew to a close, Livetec were called by APHA to assist with emergency measures on a farm in Norfolk, which was **home to approximately 38,000 ducks**. Avian influenza, a highly-pathogenic notifiable disease was rapidly spreading through the premises, meaning Livetec urgently needed to apply emergency depopulation measures to stop any further spread, both on and off farm.

Prior to the team's arrival, a vet had already conducted a clinical inspection, **collected samples and imposed restrictions on-farm**. Eventually, laboratory testing would confirm the presence of the **highly transmissible H5N8 strain** of AI. Promptly, Livetec completed and carried out emergency depopulation measures to the highest welfare standards of welfare and care. In addition an initial cleansing and disinfection stage was also applied, to satisfy **the standards required by APHA**.

Throughout the process, a full investigation was carried out to **identify how and why AI had arrived on this farm**, to aid in further preventative measures. The report concluded that after a thorough analysis, the most likely source of infection was **indirect contact with wild birds** due to a range of **unsatisfactory biosecurity measures**. The report identified poor building maintenance across the premises, poor bedding storage and a lack of cleansing and disinfection protocols in place for all staff.

With a **Livetec contingency plan** in place, these risks could have been mitigated as they would have been identified and resolved prior to the introduction of AI. Planning can help bird owners build preventative measures into practises, ensuring everyone on the site operates to the highest levels of biosecurity, encouraging greater levels of defence against the potential ingress of disease from avoidable sources.

Robust **biosecurity measures can help to stem the introduction and spread of disease**, ultimately reducing the impact an outbreak can have both financially and operationally.

## Norfolk

### Early December 2020

Very soon following the third case of avian influenza in Norfolk, Livetec were called to a fourth farm in December 2020. Similarly, the **H5N8 strain of avian influenza**, which was the most prominent strain for the season, had been found present on the premises, which was home to over **12,000 ducks**.

Restrictions had already been imposed on-farm by APHA, halting all operations to further stem the spread of AI, including the implementation of a **10km surveillance zone**. Working quickly, the Livetec Operations team applied emergency measures, depopulating the premises within three days, which was then followed by a preliminary stage of cleansing and disinfection. In order to satisfy the measures imposed on the premises, the farm does have to undergo a **secondary C&D stage**.

Following the identification of the cause of disease, it can be concluded that the farm could likely have mitigated the potential of this outbreak, by **implementing the correct biosecurity measures and protocols**. Supported by Livetec's technical services, like a **bespoke biosecurity strategy**, the farm could have avoided the outbreak as well as the need for operational downtime.

The subsequent investigation established that the **operations on-farm were not biosecure** and not practised as part of the daily processes. Ultimately, the report concluded that the outbreak was indirect contact with wild birds, **due to poor biosecurity measures**. The lack of measures resulted in a huge impact on both the premises and the staff on site.





## Norfolk

Mid December 2020

Livetec were alerted to a **fifth case of avian influenza** on a farm in Norfolk within the space of just a few days at the end of December. The farm, which was in close proximity to the other premises in Norfolk, was home to almost **27,000 ducks, housed across 6 sheds.**

As there was confirmation that AI was present on the farm, the Livetec Operations team quickly mobilised to support and carry out the **urgent depopulation measures**, necessary to prevent any further spread of the disease.

With restrictions and a surveillance zone already in place, **operations on the farm had stopped** and an investigation into the cause of the outbreak was underway.

The thorough investigation concluded that there was **a lack of biosecurity**, and concluded that indirect contact between wild birds and ducks was the most likely cause of the outbreak. The report further identified **multiple biosecurity protocols not present on-farm**, including a lack of building maintenance and unsatisfactory cleansing and disinfection measures.

Had the farm followed and implemented the **correct levels of biosecurity**, this outbreak could likely have been avoided. Using Livetec's **contingency planning measures**, premises can identify potential gaps in their operations.

Prior to the conclusions drawn from the investigation, the Livetec Operations team had completed the emergency **depopulation measures in a matter of days**, maintaining the utmost standards of welfare and care.

Following this, the initial stages of cleansing and disinfection were implemented, allowing **the farmer to work towards regaining control of their farm.**

## Norfolk

Late December 2020

Livetec remained in Norfolk at the end of December due to a sixth confirmed outbreak of avian influenza amongst another **flock of ducks**. The infected premises, which was part of a larger poultry production company, was the fourth location to be implicated within the county in the space of a week, showing just **how quickly the highly transmissible strain, H5N8 can travel**.

AI was found to be spreading through the almost **26,000 ducks resident on site**. As is standard procedure with the presence of the notifiable disease, the Animal and Plant Health Agency's Emergency team had taken control of the farm and imposed a range of restrictions, to prevent the **disease spreading to nearby locations**.

Aware that an outbreak can occur at any time, the Livetec Operations team worked respectfully to facilitate the required **emergency depopulation, finishing it within one day**. This was followed by other measures required, like cleansing and disinfection, to allow the farmer to work towards resuming operations.

A thorough investigation to detect the cause of the outbreak, confirmed that **multiple biosecurity breaches had occurred**. The report concluded that the cause of the outbreak was **poor biosecurity**, with both the unsuitable bedding storage and contact with wild birds believed to have caused the breach. It was also noted that there were significant failings in the maintenance of the premises and a lack of suitable PPE for both the staff and delivery drivers.

If the infected premises had followed a **Livetec biosecurity and contingency plan**, which can identify those failings in biosecurity before the ingress of disease, it's highly probable that measures and protocols could have **greatly reduced the risk of an outbreak**.





## Wales

29th January 2021

At the end of January 2021, Livetec were called to a farm located just off the northwest coast of Wales. The Operations team was quickly mobilised and arrived on site just one day after the APHA veterinary inspector confirmed that the infected premises' **game birds had been exposed** to highly pathogenic avian influenza.

When Livetec arrived on the farm, APHA had already placed control measures around the infected premises, including restrictions on movement, **a 3km and a 10km surveillance zone.**

After a thorough assessment, the Livetec team began appropriate on-farm emergency depopulation measures across the **three infected poultry sheds.** The emergency measures were completed on the same day, to the highest possible standards of welfare and care. Emergency depopulation protocols were followed immediately afterwards by a thorough **cleansing and disinfection process.** This further prevents the spread of disease and is required by APHA following an outbreak.

With the outbreak contained, an **exhaustive investigation** was carried out to establish the source of the infection. This included a detailed review of the infected premise's biosecurity practises including **record keeping and housing.**

The investigation concluded that **biosecurity on-farm was poor, with numerous failings cited.** These included a lack of specific PPE, as well as an absence of cleansing and disinfection processes. Had the farm taken a more stringent approach to their biosecurity protocols, supported by Livetec's technical services such as a **bespoke cleansing and disinfection management plan,** it's probable that the risk of infection would have been mitigated.

The report also indicated that the **bird's sheds were in a poor state of repair** and allowed for direct or indirect contact with wild birds. This is especially notable as the investigation concluded that contact with wild birds was the most likely source of infection. Again, this would have been identified as an area of concern with a Livetec biosecurity strategy.

## North Yorkshire

6th February 2021

In early February 2021, Livetec was called to a unit in North Yorkshire following confirmation that HPAI H5N8 was quickly spreading through over **1,500 free range chickens** resident on site.

The Livetec Operations team mobilised quickly to be on site within hours. **APHA had imposed restrictions** the previous day, meaning controls on movement on and off premises were already in place, along with a 10KM surveillance zone.

Following an assessment, the Livetec team initiated appropriate emergency depopulation measures on the 6th February in order to contain the outbreak, with the **measures being completed the same day.**

A subsequent investigation to identify the source of the outbreak established that **on-farm biosecurity measures fell far short of the level required** to prevent the spread of disease. The detail of the report suggests that the farm could have taken great strides to prevent and contain an outbreak if they had assumed a **higher adherence to necessary biosecurity standards** – with support from Livetec's technical services in the form of a biosecurity strategy.

The outcome of the investigation found that poor biosecurity had led to the outbreak and assumed that contact with wild birds was the most likely source. Multiple **serious biosecurity failings** were noted in the report, including contaminated bedding, rodents, a lack of biosecurity protocols in the poultry sheds, an absence of cleansing and disinfection processes and no dedicated clothing or footwear for the farm personnel.

With prior support from Livetec's consultancy services, **these risks could have been identified** and suitable biosecurity measures put in place, reducing the potential for disease incursion and **mitigating against operational disruption** and financial loss.





## Fife

11th February 2021

Days after, Livetec's Operations team were required on site at a farm in Fife, due to a suspected outbreak of avian influenza. The team were on site shortly thereafter, when it was confirmed that the farm's **14,000 game birds** had been exposed to **HPAI H5N1**. Due to the farm being home to a range of breeds, including pheasants, guinea fowl and partridge, this was a particularly challenging case to navigate.

When Livetec arrived on site, the farm had already been placed under restrictive measures with control and **surveillance zones** set up. Unfortunately, due to the lack of a cure and the speed at which AI spreads, the Livetec team had no option but to initiate emergency depopulation measures to contain the outbreak. Following a thorough evaluation, the team were able to determine the most appropriate and **welfare-friendly on-farm measures**, completing them over the course of 6 days.

A lack of consistent biosecurity was confirmed by a subsequent APHA investigation to identify the source of the outbreak, with **discrepancies between the presence of a biosecurity measure** and the measure actually being followed. It is fair to presume that had measures been adhered to more consistently, the risk of an outbreak would have been lowered and the risk of operational downtime and financial loss reduced.

In addition to **several biosecurity failings**, the report concluded that the most likely ingress for infection was a range of biosecurity breaches including food spills, the presence of rodents and poor building maintenance, which **increased the opportunity for HPAI contamination**.

Commissioning Livetec's technical services team **could have mitigated against this risk** and ensured that biosecurity failings were prevented.

## Cheshire

27th March 2021

The Livetec Operations team mobilised to Cheshire in late March 2021, due to the suspected presence of avian influenza. The outbreak, which was on a breeding unit, was quickly sweeping through the farm's **turkey population of more than 4,000 birds.**

The results of a full veterinary investigation, diagnostic sampling and **PCR tests** confirmed that the strain sweeping through the farm was actually **H5N3**. This was the first case of this strain for the season.

As a result, the **Livetec Operations team quickly mobilised** to support the farm, applying our most suitable on-farm depopulation products and services, continually maintaining the highest welfare standards.

An investigation into the source of the outbreak confirmed **poor biosecurity measures** had been intrinsic to the spread of disease. Amongst the problems identified were ineffective cleansing and disinfection practises, building maintenance, poor visitor tracking and inadequate workwear provision.

The report concluded that there were opportunities for disease ingress through a number of biosecurity lapses, with the **source of infection** traced back to indirect introduction from a wild bird source.

It can be assumed that due to the poor biosecurity present on site, **Livetec's technical services**, such as biosecurity planning and consultancy, could have minimised the risks posed by a lack of suitable disinfection procedures. Prior consultations with Livetec would have meant that the necessary changes could have been made **to improve biosecurity.**

The Operations team were able to apply the necessary measures over the period of **three days**, including emergency depopulation and cleansing and disinfection of infected areas.





## Staffordshire

28th March 2021

Livetec's final case for the season was on a farm in East Staffordshire on the 28th March 2021. The premises had already received confirmation that avian influenza was present in the **commercial broiler chickens** on site. The site was a free-range farming enterprise and was home to other farm animals including **cattle and deer**, but luckily due to the nature of this disease, they were not susceptible to the disease spread.

With restrictions already in place, it was paramount that the Livetec Operations team were on-farm to conduct a detailed assessment and begin the process of emergency on-farm depopulation. The strain of AI, which was determined to be **H5N8**, was spreading rapidly through more than **49,000 chickens resident on site**.

Whilst continually applying the utmost levels of welfare and care, the depopulation process took a total of **three days** to complete, which was followed by an initial cleansing and disinfection stage.

An investigation carried out by APHA to determine the cause of the outbreak established **a number of biosecurity failings**, and ultimately classified personnel biosecurity as poor. By establishing sufficient biosecurity protocols and ensuring they are integrated thoroughly into day-to-day processes, this farm could have significantly reduced the likelihood of disease outbreak.

Among other issues, there was **a lack of PPE and C&D**. In the sheds, there was poor building maintenance – with direct or indirect contact with wild birds deemed to be the source of disease ingress, it's clear that the **biosecurity processes present were not sufficient** to prevent the introduction or spread of disease.

Having the correct contingency plan in place, such as those developed by Livetec, biosecurity failings could have been identified earlier and remedied in order to **provide a stronger defence against the introduction of AI** on farm.



## Summary

**Over the last year, Livetec has been involved in a number of cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Every year AI is found present on a range of premises across the UK and Ireland, namely during the migration season and 2020 was no exception.**

The 2020 to 2021 AI season was record-setting for bird flu cases across the country. The devastation was felt on a national level, with 100,000's of chickens, ducks, geese and more needing to be culled.

And, although the spread of diseases and infections cannot be completely eradicated and with diseases like AI, it can be seasonal - there are ways to significantly minimise the risks of disease incursion. It is clear from the reports, that had these farms followed the necessary biosecurity protocols and measures, a large majority could have mitigated the risks of an outbreak and likely avoided them completely.

Due to our partnership with the Animal and Plant Health Agency, Livetec was involved in a large number of cases of AI that occurred across the season. Our services, including depopulation and vast wealth of knowledge about biosecurity has continually allowed us to assist bird owners across the country to regain control of their farms.

Livetec has been involved in every notifiable disease outbreak in the UK for nearly two decades. Using our years of experience, knowledge and scientifically-backed research, we have become an industry leader in providing bespoke biosecurity strategies and contingency planning, helping farmers across the country to protect their livestock and livelihood.

Should an outbreak occur, Livetec is also here to provide emergency depopulation and safeguarding solutions to reduce the impact of an outbreak to protect your livestock and business.



# Livetec Protection

Protecting your reputation, livestock and livelihood through excellence.

We continually explore new ways to improve the future of farming and give farmers peace of mind that they're doing everything they can to protect their animals, ensure their welfare, and operate their business in the very best way.

**Every one of our service areas is firmly rooted in the latest scientific advice and Government legislation.**

It's part of our commitment to ensuring you remain compliant as you implement change, and are adopting the most effective approaches as recommended by UK leaders.

We're proud to be the only Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) contracted organisation in the UK to deliver operationally in the event of a disease outbreak.



The British Poultry Council has worked with Livetec for six years and highly values their rapid and reliable service. Livetec provides our member businesses and their farmers with the most efficient service during the worst of times. With efficiency and empathy, Livetec effectively responds to emergency situations as soon as possible. Their role is of the utmost importance as the British poultry industry continues to work with Government to improve standards and animal welfare and reduce the threat of exotic disease incursion. Industry, Government and Livetec all work together to mitigate the risk of disaster and keep the food supply chain going."

British Poultry Council

Our clients trust us to work in compliance with UK legislation, remove the burden of remaining compliant from them and to keep making the necessary changes to facilitate a strong, resilient farming strategy.



From the first call to Livetec, to the final departure of the team, we are dealt with very professionally. This is especially important as this can be an emotional and difficult time for those involved with the livestock. There is also the added complication of ensuring staff and bird welfare are protected while dealing with a zoonotic disease. This Livetec manage extremely well."

PD Hook Group



Some of the renowned organisations we work with include:



Livetec is the leading provider of livestock protection - the go-to partner for all biosecurity issues across the industry.

We provide an extensive range of innovative solutions for our clients:

