

# Welfare Timeline

## Disease Outbreak Across the UK

January 2020 to September 2021





## Introduction

**There are a range of infections and diseases that can be found present in livestock. Over the past two years, cases of non-notifiable diseases like Salmonella, E. coli and even some strains of AI have become increasingly present throughout a range of livestock on UK farms, from broiler breeders to turkeys. These outbreaks can cause disruption to farmers and supply chains nationwide.**

As a farmer, one of the most important things for your business is the ability to remain profitable. However, if a flock is overwhelmed by an infection or disease, it can bring farming practices to an immediate stop. It also means that within the space of a week, you can go from having a full flock, to none.

### Implementing Proactive Strategies To Minimise Devastation

Although there is no one certain way to absolutely prevent disease outbreaks, there are ways to minimise both the risks of one occurring and the impact it can have, should one occur. An effective approach to mitigating disease outbreaks is to protect the business in a way that facilitates ongoing productivity, by engaging a Livetec contingency plan.

Livetec has been involved in every notifiable disease outbreak across the UK for over a decade, and are experts in building strategies that can protect your farm from the devastation of an infection. Backed by scientific research and years of experience, we know that biosecurity is essential for stopping the introduction and spread of disease. This is supported by contingency planning, which in agriculture is key. We act as a partner to farms, creating bespoke plans based on each individual farms needs.

### Outbreaks Across The UK

Livetec has assisted farms across the UK with a large number of infections, with many farms becoming infected with cases of Salmonella T, Salmonella Infantis and E. coli, histomoniasis. In all of these cases, it can be assumed that the risks of an outbreak could have been mitigated with a contingency plan in place. In some of the worst cases, flocks of over 250,000 birds had to be depopulated within just a few days.

## Killycloghan: The first non-notifiable case of 2020

11th January 2020

At the beginning of 2020, the Livetec team were called to a farm in **County Cavan, Northern Ireland** involving a case of non-notifiable Salmonella Typhimurium, which was affecting over **6,500 broiler breeder hens**.

**Salmonella Typhimurium** is a disease that occurs frequently in poultry and can cause losses to industry and flock owners, with **increased mortality**, reduced growth and loss of egg production.

Upon arrival on 11th January 2020, the Livetec team undertook an **extensive review** and after a discussion with all the parties involved, it was decided that depopulation was the only course of action to prevent the disease from spreading.

The operation was conducted for all the occupants of **one shed**. Throughout the entire process, Livetec ensured that all practises were carried out as fairly, humanely and ethically as possible, for both the animals and staff.

The risk of disease introduction and spread could be dramatically reduced with a **Livetec contingency plan**. The measures and protocols that the plan puts in place, allows farmers to feel confident that they have done all they can to **mitigate future risk**. Additionally, it can minimise operational disruption, financial loss and reputational impact like this.





## County Fermanagh

20th January 2020

The Livetec team were called to a farm on the 20th January 2020 in County Fermanagh concerning a case of the non-notifiable disease, **avian influenza H6N1**, which was affecting a very large number of **brown layer hens**.

The farm had a **total of three sheds** and it was found that AI had been spread to all the sheds. It was decided that a depopulation operation was necessary to avoid the further spread of the disease. This large operation used Livetec's on farm operations to ensure the entire process was carried out as fairly as possible.

Whilst AI H6N1 is a non-notifiable disease due to it being a low pathogenic strain, left untreated, **this strain can mutate into a highly pathogenic strain**, making it a notifiable disease and causing an increased level of disruption.

Large operations such as this one are **highly disruptive**, a shock to finances, and devastating for the farmer and workers. The risk of these unpleasant situations and decisions can be greatly reduced using Livetec technical services, like a **bespoke biosecurity strategy**. An effective, comprehensive strategy should be an integral part of your business plan going forward.

## County Fermanagh

6th February 2020

A second premises in County Fermanagh was found to have fallen victim to non-notifiable avian influenza H6N1, on the 6th February 2020. The disease, which was rapidly spreading, was affecting over **19,000 brown breeder hens** resident on site.

Upon arrival, the Livetec Operations team found that all **three sheds on the farm** had been infected due to the ease at which disease can be spread if biosecurity practises are not strictly followed. After a discussion between the parties involved a decision was made to **depopulate the poultry** in all three sheds. This decision took into account other outbreaks of disease in the local area.

The Livetec team used their own method of **on-farm operations**, supported by years of scientifically-backed research, to ensure the entire process was carried out as humanely and ethically as possible.

With outbreaks in **several locations in the region** it can be assumed that with a Livetec contingency plan, the risks of this continued outbreak could have been mitigated.





## County Fermanagh

9th February 2020

Unfortunately on the 9th February 2020, a third farm in County Fermanagh was found to have been struck with non-notifiable **avian influenza H6N1**, this time affecting over **12,500 brown layer hens**.

With **two other sites infected within weeks of each other**, the Livetec Operations team got to the farm as a matter of urgency and found that the two sheds on site were infected.

After a discussion between the parties involved, it was decided that **emergency depopulation measures** needed to be applied to the livestock in both sheds. This decision also highlighted the ease at which **AI was spreading** through the county, and so much like any other disease outbreak, it was essential that the disease was controlled and eradicated.

The Livetec team carried out the depopulation humanely and ethically using our range of **on-farm operations**, supported by years of scientifically-backed research. It could be assumed, that with a **Livetec contingency plan** in place at these farms, this local outbreak could very well have been avoided and the risks mitigated. The implications that arise from an outbreak like this can affect more than just the farm and it's poultry.

## Shropshire

6th March 2020

The Livetec Operations team were called to Shropshire on the 6th March 2020 after it was discovered that the **non-notifiable H6N1 strain of avian influenza** was quickly spreading across the farm. On site there were over **20,000 broiler breeder hens** across four sheds, and had spread through two of the sheds on site.

It was decided by all the parties involved that to ensure the disease did not spread any further, depopulation was needed for the birds in the affected sheds. The Livetec team used their **extensive experience** and on-farm operations to ensure that the work was carried out humanely and ethically with the welfare of the birds as a priority.

Livetec supplies **tailored contingency plans** that can mitigate the risk of disease and give you peace of mind. They are created by our team of technical experts with years of experience and are a benefit rich investment for the **future of a farming business**.

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.





## County of Stirling

17th March 2020

On the 17th March 2020 the Livetec team attended a farm in Scotland with a reported outbreak of the **non-notifiable avian influenza H10 in Stirling**. The outbreak was already affecting the more than **40,000 broiler breeder hens** resident on the farm.

After conducting tests, it was found that AI was present in the flocks in **four of the ten sheds present on site**. Although this strain is non-notifiable and considered a low pathogenic strain, these strains have the ability to mutate into different strains, making them **highly-pathogenic** and a notifiable disease.

With this information to hand it was decided by all the parties that a depopulation was needed across the farm, to stop any further spread and the possibility of it mutating. The Livetec Operations team applied the most appropriate method of **on-farm depopulation** and proceeded with the operation with full regard for the welfare of the flocks.

When disease outbreaks happen on farms, it can often be **down to a lack of biosecurity measures**. It can be assumed that an outbreak, such as this, could have been mitigated with a Livetec contingency plan in place as part of its business strategy. These plans are comprehensive, easy to follow and come with technical support from the Livetec team.



## Nottinghamshire

14th May 2020

On the 14th May 2020 the Livetec team were called to a farm in Nottinghamshire for an outbreak of Salmonella Typhimurium affecting over **34,000 broiler breeder hens**.

The farm had five sheds, and after some analysis by the Livetec Operations team it was found that one of the five was infected. **Salmonella Typhimurium is a disease** that occurs frequently in poultry and can cause significant losses to industry and flock owners, with **increased mortality, reduced growth and loss of egg production**. It was decided that the infected shed should be depopulated, to reduce the risk of the disease spreading to the other sheds.

The Livetec Operations team proceeded with the operation with **great care and attention to the welfare** of the poultry, using their on-farm equipment and years of scientific know-how.

Often, unfortunate situations like this can be avoided by ensuring that you have the **correct biosecurity protocols** and procedures in place. Livetec helps ensure these are in place. Our technical services aim to stop outbreaks before they happen, and quickly get back to normal, should one occur. With a Livetec contingency plan, you can start to mitigate the risks of one happening on your farm.





## Lincolnshire

14th October 2020

The Livetec team were called to a farm in Lincolnshire on the 14th October 2020, due to an **outbreak of histomoniasis** (also known as blackhead disease), which was quickly spreading through the **nearly 1,000 turkeys resident on-site**.

This premises was **one of two farms** that reported outbreaks within the county on the same day, showing signs that a **small spread was starting to occur**. This disease can spread through contaminated soil and has no treatment. Due to the fact that the disease was spreading, not only across this farm, but to other farms in the county, a consensus was reached to depopulate the infected shed to reduce the risk of infection spreading to the other sheds and livestock.

The Livetec Operations team used their **on-farm equipment** and scientific knowledge to carry out the operation and addressed the depopulation with compassion and care to minimise any stress to the livestock. The site then has to undergo **a thorough cleansing and disinfection stage**, to eradicate any further spread.

It can be assumed that the spread of the infection across the two farms, most likely **could have been avoided** with a Livetec contingency plan. These plans are unique to each farm and provide clear guidance on the latest advice from the Government and give protocols and directions to follow, to avoid disease outbreaks. A **Livetec contingency plan** should be part of any farm's business processes.

## Lincolnshire

14th October 2020

On the 14th October 2020, the Livetec team were called to **a second farm in Lincolnshire** regarding an outbreak of histomoniasis (blackhead disease), which was affecting **over 2,500 turkeys**. Turkey's are highly susceptible to blackhead disease, which can cause an extremely high mortality rate once infected.

Across the farm there were two sheds, and upon an appraisal, it was found that **only half of the turkeys in one shed were infected**. Creating a plan of action to prevent any further spread of this disease, the Livetec team, along with the other necessary bodies, decided to separate and **depopulate the infected birds**.

Throughout the entire process the Livetec team ensured that **all operations were carried out on-farm** as humanely as possible, for both the animals and staff.

With a second farm being affected with histomoniasis in Lincolnshire on the same day, it could suggest that **a lapse in biosecurity measures had encouraged the spread**. With a contingency plan in place, and the correct protocols, these farms could have mitigated the risk of a costly delay in the farm's operations, financial implications, and a knock to their reputation.





## Lincolnshire

9th November 2020

A few weeks later, Livetec were alerted to **a third outbreak of histomoniasis (blackhead disease)** on a farm in Lincolnshire. Being alerted on the 9th November 2020, it was determined that the non-notifiable disease was affecting **over 2,800 turkeys resident on-site.**

Tests concluded that only half of one of the two sheds on-farm had been infected, and so to minimise the impact and isolate the disease, **the infected birds were separated and subsequently depopulated.** The Livetec Operations team used their on-farm operations and extensive knowledge to ensure that the process was carried out to the highest standards of welfare and care, for both the animals and staff.

The Livetec team pride themselves on protecting livestock welfare and in **providing support and clear guidance** to farmers. With Livetec as a partner you can be sure that the correct and necessary biosecurity measures will be in place to reduce the risk of infection on your farm. Ensuring farmer's operational integrity, financial security, reputation and mental well-being are core to **Livetec's business ethos.**

## Norfolk

3rd July 2021

On the 3rd July 2021, the Livetec team attended a turkey farm in Norfolk in response to a confirmed case of **salmonella** that had infected the farm's population of turkeys.

Arriving at the farm in the morning, the Livetec team appraised the impact of the infection on the farm's population of **over 42,000 turkeys**. The need for an emergency depopulation was immediately decided to stop the potential spread to the surrounding area and other livestock. Within a few hours the Livetec team had their equipment set up ready to begin the **despatch of the infected birds**. The next day the cull was carried out efficiently and effectively by the Livetec team.

At many farms Livetec visits the team often note that **poor biosecurity protocols are in place** and are quite often neglected in the day-to-day running of the farm. So often the team could envisage not having to attend in a depopulation capacity if a **coherent contingency plan** had been in place, which was adhered to.

Our team of experts provide bespoke biosecurity strategies and contingency plans to help **mitigate the risk of a disease outbreak**. Our technical team will conduct a comprehensive full site audit to produce a tailored plan to your farm to help reduce the risk of costly disruptions to your business operations and **minimise financial impact**.





## Angus

5th August 2021

On the 5th August 2021, the Livetec team was called to a farm in Angus, to manage the depletion of **60,000 infected broiler chickens**.

In order to prevent any further spread of the infection sweeping through the farm's sheds and resident poultry, the Livetec Operations team identified **emergency depopulation** as the best course of action.

Livetec are synonymous in the delivery of emergency depopulation, always using the most humane method possible. The Operations team **completed the necessary depletion of the infected birds within two days**, followed by deep cleansing and disinfection of all the affected areas. This allowed the farmer to rotate in a new flock, **minimising disruption to their operation**, allowing them to quickly return to the day-to-day running of the business.

Often, unfortunate situations like this can be avoided by ensuring a robust **disease biosecurity plan** is in place, but it does not end there. The plan's measures have to be adhered to and the protocols must be followed by all farm workers, delivery personnel and other visitors. Livetec can provide you with a bespoke biosecurity plan, containing all of the necessary systems that allow you to meet compliance and welfare standards, whilst **greatly reducing the risk of a disease outbreak occurring**.

## Norfolk

9th August 2021

In August 2021 Livetec was called to a farm in Norfolk, to make an assessment of the health of the poultry population. Upon arrival they quickly found that the infection had spread its way through over **45,000 turkeys**.

The Livetec team used their years of scientifically backed expertise and knowledge to agree upon the best course of action, putting the **welfare of the animals and the farmer first**. Beginning work on the 9th August, the team worked to depopulate the infected turkey's and carried out an **intense deep clean and sanitisation of the farm**, to stop any further spread of the disease.

With the deep clean and disinfection completed the farmer could get to work on resuming the normal farming activities, **proving to the APHA** that the necessary procedures had been followed.

It is a farmers waking nightmare to find themselves looking at an **emergency depopulation situation**. Reducing the risk of this happening has to be a key part of a farm's business plan. Livetec are the leading experts in delivering contingency plans to reduce your risk of **operational disruption**, loss of revenue and reputational damage.





## Lincolnshire

6th August 2021

In early August 2021, the Livetec team travelled to a farm in Lincolnshire to **deplete their flocks of broiler chickens**. Arriving on site on the 6th, the team conducted a full investigation of the farm, to build a course of action to eradicate the disease, that eventually would enable the farmer to **restore full operations on their premises**.

The necessary measures involved the depopulation of the affected zones on the farm over a **two day period**, using Livetec's on-farm operations. The Operations team used their substantial experience to deliver the highest level of welfare, care and **distress management** to the operation, followed by a deep clean and sanitisation of the site.

**Effective biosecurity** protocols on-farm is the best way to defend flocks from disease outbreak. This means that more often than not, depopulation, which should be a last resort, can be avoided with a well thought out contingency plan. Livetec's technical team works with farmers to **produce a bespoke plan** to work alongside their farm's processes and systems.



## North Yorkshire

14th August 2021

Livetec was contacted in August 2021 after receiving confirmation that **Salmonella T** was sweeping its way through **15,000 broiler chickens** on a farm in North Yorkshire.

The Livetec Operations team quickly mobilised upon notification, and arrived at the farm on the 14th August in order to **minimise the potential impact** of the infection and prevent any further spread. An investigation from Livetec efficiently identified the best on-farm solution for emergency depopulation and, **within a day**, was able to complete the necessary measures.

The welfare of the animals and the farmers is considered in every sensitive situation, such as this one, and so the **highest standards were adhered to** throughout the entire process. A full cleansing and sanitisation procedure followed the depopulation, to eradicate any potential for further spread.

The Livetec team pride themselves on **protecting livestock welfare** and in providing support and clear guidance to farmers. **Livetec acts as a partner**, ensuring that all of the essential biosecurity measures are in place to reduce the risk of infection on your farm. Ensuring famers operational integrity, financial security, reputation and mental well-being are a key aspect of **Livetec's mission and technical services**.





## Herefordshire

17th August 2021

Later that same month, Livetec were called to a farm in Herefordshire which had fallen victim to an outbreak of **Salmonella Infantis**, which was sweeping through a large number of the farm's **broiler chickens**.

Arriving on the 17th August 2021, and **over the course of six days**, a team of **four Livetec specialists** began carrying out the most appropriate method of on-farm emergency depopulation. To control the spread, efficiency was essential. The Livetec team ensured that the highest level of care and welfare was maintained throughout the entire process. The measures were carried out using Livetec's **on-farm operations so as to relieve stress** for both the staff on site and the animals.

The other essential step was to disinfect all zones, allowing the farm to demonstrate to the **Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA)** that the necessary steps and measures were implemented to prevent any further spreads.

It is highly likely that partnering with Livetec to **create a bespoke contingency plan**, this farm would have had a far greater chance of avoiding this unenviable conclusion.

## Norfolk

22nd August 2021

In August 2021 Livetec were called to a farm in Norfolk as it was confirmed that **E. coli** was spreading through a **large number of the broiler chickens resident on site.**

The Livetec team arrived on 22nd August 2021 and immediately **conducted a thorough analysis** of the situation. Using scientific expertise and years of experience, the Livetec Operations team were able to choose **a method of emergency on-farm depopulation** that was the most efficient and met the highest welfare standards.

A particularly challenging case due to the size of the site and **the number of poultry infected**, the team worked diligently **over the course of ten days.** Within this time, the emergency depopulation was conducted across numerous sheds on the farm, stopping the disease from spreading any further. In order to **prevent future outbreaks**, the farm was thoroughly cleansed and sanitised so the process of resuming normal operations could begin.

Biosecurity is the best way to prevent disease introduction and spread on any premises. Our Livetec experts act as a partner to farms, **curating bespoke contingency plans** that can significantly mitigate and reduce the risk of such an event happening on your farm.





## Angus

29th September 2021

On the 29th September 2021 the Livetec Operations team were called to a farm based in **Angus, a county in Scotland**. Following extensive tests, it was confirmed that an infection had started sweeping through over **58,000 broiler chickens** resident on-site.

Prior to Livetec's arrival, it was decided that **emergency depopulation was the only suitable method** for stopping the outbreak and so, their presence was requested to help eradicate any further implications.

Over **the course of three days**, the Livetec Operations team worked efficiently using the carefully chosen method of **on-farm depopulation**. Throughout, the highest level of care was maintained, following our welfare and ethics guidelines to minimise distress for both the poultry and the staff. Upon completion the affected zones were cleansed and disinfected, to stop any further spread and **the chance of an outbreak recurrence**.

Livetec provides an efficient and effective service for dealing with disease outbreaks on farms, and for **disease prevention**. Using years of experience and our technical services, the Livetec team can work with farmers to reduce the risk of disease outbreak. Our **bespoke biosecurity strategies identify holes in the biosecurity practises** present, improving them and performing testing with real-time outbreak exercises.

## Conclusion

**It is not just seasonal infections that farmers must be wary of, as farms are prone to disease and infection outbreaks all year round. Diseases like salmonella, E. coli and blackhead disease repeatedly sweep through the UK, causing widespread devastation to farms, business and the economy. The infections and diseases are not limited and spread quickly through a huge range of poultry on farms.**

As the leaders in livestock protection and biosecurity, Livetec was on hand to help in many cases across the UK over the past year, acting professionally and with care. This timeline has covered 19 cases of non-notifiable disease outbreaks over a 2-year period.

And, although we were able to help resolve these issues using our emergency on-farm depopulation operations - there is a great cost of life.

Whilst depopulation and disinfection measures help to end outbreaks, they are not an effective solution to stopping the outbreaks happening.

At Livetec Systems, our response to the increasing risks across the agricultural industry is to build robust solutions into processes, helping farmers navigate the range of challenges they face. We are disease prevention and control experts, with over a decade's worth of experience in the industry, offering end-to-end support all year round.

Our range of technical services means we can work with farmers to create contingency plans, outlining the steps and biosecurity practices that can be built into operations to avoid outbreaks of diseases like avian influenza, salmonella and E.coli. Should you suspect an outbreak, the measures and practices outlined in the bespoke plans help to minimise the impact, helping avoid large-scale devastation and outlines what needs to be done to cleanse, disinfect and regain control of your premises.

For more information on Livetec Systems, and our bespoke, science-backed solutions to the modern day challenges affecting today's farmers, head to: [www.livetecsystems.co.uk](http://www.livetecsystems.co.uk)



# We are leaders in **on-farm depopulation**



**At Livetec, we know that the timely and efficient stunning of birds is essential for businesses performance and continuity. We are specialists in navigating the challenges created by situations such as disease outbreaks, welfare concerns and supply chain issues.**

The only way to ensure supplier demand is met, whilst keeping the costs associated with caring for livestock low is mobile stunning, and the loss of stunning capability can have a significant and immediate impact on the commercial viability of your business.

Our real world solutions are rooted in ensuring your business remains running and profitable and protects your healthy livestock.

We help UK farmers to meet suppliers demands and keep costs down in any situation, with our on-farm mobile stunning solutions. Our solutions help farmers to navigate the seasonal culling schedule, support programmed flock rotations, end of lay disposal, supply chain continuity, feed availability and the protection of healthy birds from infected poultry.

This efficient method protects personal wellbeing, the welfare of animals, financial status and business reputations.



## Reduced stunning capacity complications

There are many risks that can stem from not having the appropriate stunning capacity, which can have huge impacts on your business.

The complications that arise from a lack of stunning capability are not just internal. Many different parties across the supply chain can be affected, from suppliers to consumers, all the way down to your livestock.

**Overcrowding** Due to an inability to rotate and remove birds from the farm.

**Loss of reputation** Stakeholders may view this as an inability to operate efficiently, affecting supply opportunities.

**Increased costs of feed and bedding** With a much larger bird population, the costs of caring for them can create a financial burden.

**Animal welfare concerns** With crowded conditions, animal welfare is likely to decrease sparking concerns across the supply chain.

**Inability to monetise flocks** If health declines or diseases spread as flocks grow out of control, their value can also rapidly decline.

**Delays in insurance payments** An inability to act quickly on situations and resolve them can delay the pace at which you receive money from your insurance provider.

**Increased risks of infectious disease spreads**  
Without quick and timely on-farm depopulation strategies, diseases can spread faster than you can call for help.

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:

