



**Generic Contingency Plan
for an Outbreak
of a Notifiable Animal Disease**

Annex C

Classical Swine Fever

Issue 1 – July 09

Contents

The contents of Annex C on Classical Swine Fever **must** be read in conjunction with the Isle of Wight Council Generic Contingency Plan for an Outbreak of a Notifiable Animal Disease ('the Generic Plan').

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1. Introduction

Annex C only contains information that is applicable during an outbreak of Classical Swine Fever. All structures, stakeholders, roles and information that are relevant to all notifiable animal diseases are contained within the main generic contingency plan.

1.1 Classical Swine Fever

Classical Swine Fever (CSF) is a highly contagious viral disease of pigs. In its acute form the disease generally results in high morbidity and mortality. The disease is serious for animal health and for the economics of the livestock industry. CSF may be confused with African Swine Fever (ASF) which is caused by an unrelated virus; the symptoms are almost identical and either may occur in chronic or acute form. Laboratory diagnosis is necessary to distinguish CSF from ASF. ASF has never occurred in the UK.

CSF, if left unchecked, could cause severe economic losses to the industry which would have an impact on rural society. An outbreak of disease would result in severe restrictions on the movement of animals and in relation to the export of live pigs and pig products. From a welfare perspective, severe forms of the disease cause significant animal suffering.

1.2 Risk of Classical Swine Fever spreading to the UK

CSF was first confirmed in this country in 1864 and was initially allowed to spread unchecked until 1878, when legislation for its control was introduced. The disease persisted for many years until it was finally eradicated from Great Britain in 1966. Since then there have been sporadic outbreaks in 1971 and 1986.

A more serious outbreak in East Anglia in 2000 affected 16 farms. A total of 74,793 pigs including those on contact farms were slaughtered to eradicate the disease. The cause of this most recent outbreak was not finally established but was most likely the result of pigs eating a contaminated imported pork product. Therefore, there is a risk that the disease could enter the UK at any time, for example through illegal imports. The EU and the UK have enhanced their controls on imports of illegal meat and meat products to reduce the risk. They also introduced Animal By-products legislation to reduce the specific risks to human and animal health by feeding animals to animals. However this risk cannot be totally eliminated.

1.3 Human health concerns

CSF cannot be contracted by humans, either through contact with infected pigs or by consuming pork products.

1.4 Isle of Wight Council Generic Contingency Plan for an Outbreak of a Notifiable Animal Disease

The contents of Annex C on CSF **must** be read in conjunction with the Generic Notifiable Animal Disease Contingency Plan Template for Local Authorities in England (hereafter referred to as the Generic Plan).

Annex C only contains information that is applicable during an outbreak of CSF. All structures, stakeholders, roles and information that are relevant to all notifiable animal diseases are contained within the main contingency plan.

Further details are also available in the Exotic Animal Disease Generic Contingency Plan produced by Defra. This can be found at:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/control/contingency/index.htm>.

1.5 Overview of local authority role

Classical Swine Fever is a notifiable disease.

Details of the duties placed upon local authorities by the Civil Contingencies Act, the Animal Health Act and European Communities Act are available within the Generic Plan.

Local authorities will perform a range of essential duties in the event of a CSF outbreak. The Classical Swine Fever Order provides clear obligations for local authorities, but there would be some individual flexibility based on the unique circumstances and risk profile of each outbreak. This flexibility is afforded by the Order to the Secretary of State and therefore local authorities are strongly advised to carefully examine individual Declaratory Orders.

If disease is confirmed, all susceptible animals on affected premises are culled, together with dangerous contacts on other premises. Movement restrictions in the surrounding area and action to re-establish disease-free status are specified by EU legislation.

The animal health and welfare enforcement function within local authorities will perform a range of key duties in the event of a confirmed case of CSF. Local authorities are responsible for enforcing the Classical Swine Fever (England) Order 2003, which outlines the controlled zones and restrictions upon the movement of animals and animal products in the event of a CSF situation. The Order also includes information pertaining to premises and equipment disinfection requirements, maintenance of records and feral pigs.





Local authorities will also play an essential role in ensuring that their communities are accurately made aware of the current situation and any restrictions upon activities, without causing any concern or panic. This role must be fulfilled through all feasible avenues, but particularly the animal health and welfare, emergency planning and communications functions.

2. Epidemiology

2.1 Definition

CSF is a highly infectious virus which may be either acute or chronic. It causes damage to blood vessels throughout the body. This results in widespread haemorrhages which may be seen in live pigs as blotching and discolouration of the skin, particularly of the extremities. The disease is caused by a virus, of which there are three serotypes.

The incubation period, the interval between exposure to infection and the appearance of the disease, varies between 2 and 30 days for outdoor breeding herds. For intensively-reared animals, particularly in nurseries and growers / finishers, the typical incubation period is 5 - 10 days.

	
<p>Skin lesions in a pig with Classical Swine Fever</p>	<p>Weak grower pigs leaning for support in a characteristic manner after being forced to stand</p>
	
<p>Cyanosis of ears, purpuric lesions over eyelids and snout and erythema over forelimb in grower pig</p>	<p>Conjunctivitis in a pregnant gilt</p>
<p>Photos courtesy of Defra / Crown Copyright</p>	

2.2 Transmission

The disease is fluid-borne; as such, it is present in the saliva, discharges from nose and eyes, urine, faeces and semen of infected pigs, and also in the meat produced from infected animals. Pigs become infected through the nose or mouth, either by direct contact with infected pigs, by contact with contaminated material on vehicles, equipment, clothing, feedstuffs etc, or through the illegal feeding of contaminated meat. Therefore, the movement of animals, stock people, clinicians, vehicles and equipment within the farm can all spread the infection unless robust biosecurity measures are observed.

Feeding of contaminated waste food is a significant means of starting outbreaks: swill feeding is now illegal, but the risk of feeding contaminated products to pigs can never be eliminated completely.

2.3 Clinical Signs

Affected pigs may show any of a wide range of clinical signs, reflecting the fact that the virus affects most organs and systems.

For pigs kept indoors, some may be found dead without previous signs of ill-health. Others may refuse to feed, become dull and reluctant to move, and show a high fever with blotching, reddening or purplish discolouration of the skin. They may huddle together; develop discharge from the eyes; or experience constipation, diarrhoea, coughing or vomiting. They may walk with a swaying movement of the hindquarters, show obvious lack of coordination or walk in circles. Some pigs may have convulsions and pregnant sows may abort.

In outdoor breeding herds, or with less severe forms of the infection, affected pigs may show very little apparent illness but may experience abortion, reduced litter size or the birth of weak or trembling piglets. A few pigs at a time may lose their appetite; as they recover, other pigs become affected. They may have runny or “sticky” eyes or diarrhoea. The herd is likely to suffer an increase in breeding problems such as abortions, the birth of mummified or stillborn piglets, or congenital tremor. Mortality is ultimately likely to increase, particularly pre-weaning piglets.

2.4 After-effects of the disease

With the exception of adult, outdoor breeding herds, mortality rates for CSF are very high. For surviving animals, abortion, still-birth, weakness and unhealthy newborns are common.

2.5 Main Aspects of Disease Control

In tackling any fresh outbreaks of CSF the Government's objectives will be to eradicate the disease as quickly as possible and maintain the UK's disease-free status.

Council Directive 2001/89/EC sets out the measures to be taken to control CSF. Movement restrictions will be placed on the infected premises. Movement restrictions will also be put in place through a series of zones around the infected premises. This will happen as soon as the disease is confirmed, though some movement controls can be put in place under a 'Temporary Control Zone' during disease investigation if deemed appropriate. The Secretary of State is obliged to introduce a Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone upon confirmation of disease, as direct by the Classical Swine Fever (England) Order 2003.

Powers are also available for the Secretary of State to cause the slaughter of suspect or infected animals. In addition, powers are provided for the slaughter of dangerous contacts. It is clear that Defra will use these powers to slaughter animals on the infected premises and potentially dangerous contacts in consideration of risk.

3. Legislation

The overarching requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the Animal Health Act 1981 as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002 and the European Communities Act 1972, are detailed in the Generic Plan. **The legislative information provided within this Annex relates specifically to CSF.**

Animal Health Act 1981 as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002

The Animal Health Act is enforced by county councils, unitary authorities, metropolitan borough councils and London boroughs and provides for the control of outbreaks of animal disease.

Section 4 (1) (a) of Schedule 3 provides the powers for the Minister to slaughter swine affected with swine fever, or suspected as being affected. Section 4 (1) (b) of Schedule 3 provides the Minister with powers to cause the slaughter of swine that may have been exposed to infection.

Section 1 (a) of Article 32A in the Animal Health Act (as amended 2002) provides the powers for the Secretary of State to amend Schedule 3 to allow for the slaughter of animals with a view to preventing the spread of disease.

Council Directive 2001/89/EC

The Directive sets out minimum control measures which Member States must take against CSF, and allows stricter measures to be taken if the disease situation requires it. It requires rapid action to be taken if disease is suspected, including movement controls. The basic disease control strategy is slaughter of all animals on an infected premises, and those identified as 'dangerous contacts'.

- Prophylactic (routine) vaccination is not permissible, but emergency vaccination is mentioned as a potential disease control strategy in the event of an outbreak.
- The Directive gives the option to adopt 'special measures' to be applied to premises such as zoos, wildlife parks and laboratories and to allow for the conservation of farm animal genetic resources.

The Classical Swine Fever (England) Order 2003

Directive 2001/89/EC is transposed into domestic legislation via the Classical Swine Fever (England) Order 2003. This was made under the Animal Health Act and is enforced accordingly. It introduces a range of requirements, including -

- Requires any person who suspects that a pig or carcass is infected with CSF to notify the Divisional Veterinary Manager and not to move anything that might be infected with the disease off the premises pending their arrival.
- Places restrictions on the suspect / infected premises.
- Requires the Secretary of State, on confirmation of disease, to establish a Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone.
- Sets out requirements for cleansing and disinfection on infected premises.
- Sets out the measures to be taken where the disease is suspected or confirmed in feral pigs.
- Gives powers to an inspector, as defined under the Animal Health Act, to take action to ensure that the requirements of the Order are carried out where any person fails to comply with those restrictions and requirements.

The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (England) Order 2003

This Order requires that vehicles and equipment used to transport animals must, with very few exceptions, be cleansed and if necessary disinfected, after the animals have been unloaded and before any further animals are loaded. This is one of the main principles of disease prevention.

4. Wider Stakeholders – CSF

Key stakeholders and wider stakeholders that are relevant to all notifiable animal health diseases are listed within the Generic Plan. This section only outlines wider stakeholders that may be of relevance during an outbreak of CSF.

Local authorities should use this information as guidance to produce a list of relevant local stakeholders, many of whom will already be known to authorities already. These will generally be businesses and individuals who keep pigs. Stakeholder lists should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they are up to date.

There are a number of national associations that represent breeders and keepers of pigs. It is recommended that local authorities make contact with any local branches of the main associations. It is also recommended that authorities make contact with any other hobbyists, rare breed societies or specialist associations operating within their area.

The majority of areas will have their own smallholders association. Details can frequently be located on the internet, and authorities should make contact with these.

Some relevant organisations include:

The British Pig Association

<http://www.britishpigs.org.uk/about.htm>

The British Pig Association registers pedigree pigs and represents the interests of pedigree pig breeders.

National Pig Association

<http://www.npa-uk.net/>

The National Pig Association is active on behalf of its members for the growth and prosperity of the British Pig industry.

British Pig Executive (BPEX)

<http://www.bpex.org/>

BPEX helps to determine the Meat and Livestock Commission's Pig Strategy.

The British Meat Processors Association (BMPA)

<http://www.bmpa.uk.com/>

BMPA is the leading trade association in the meat and meat products sector in the British food industry.

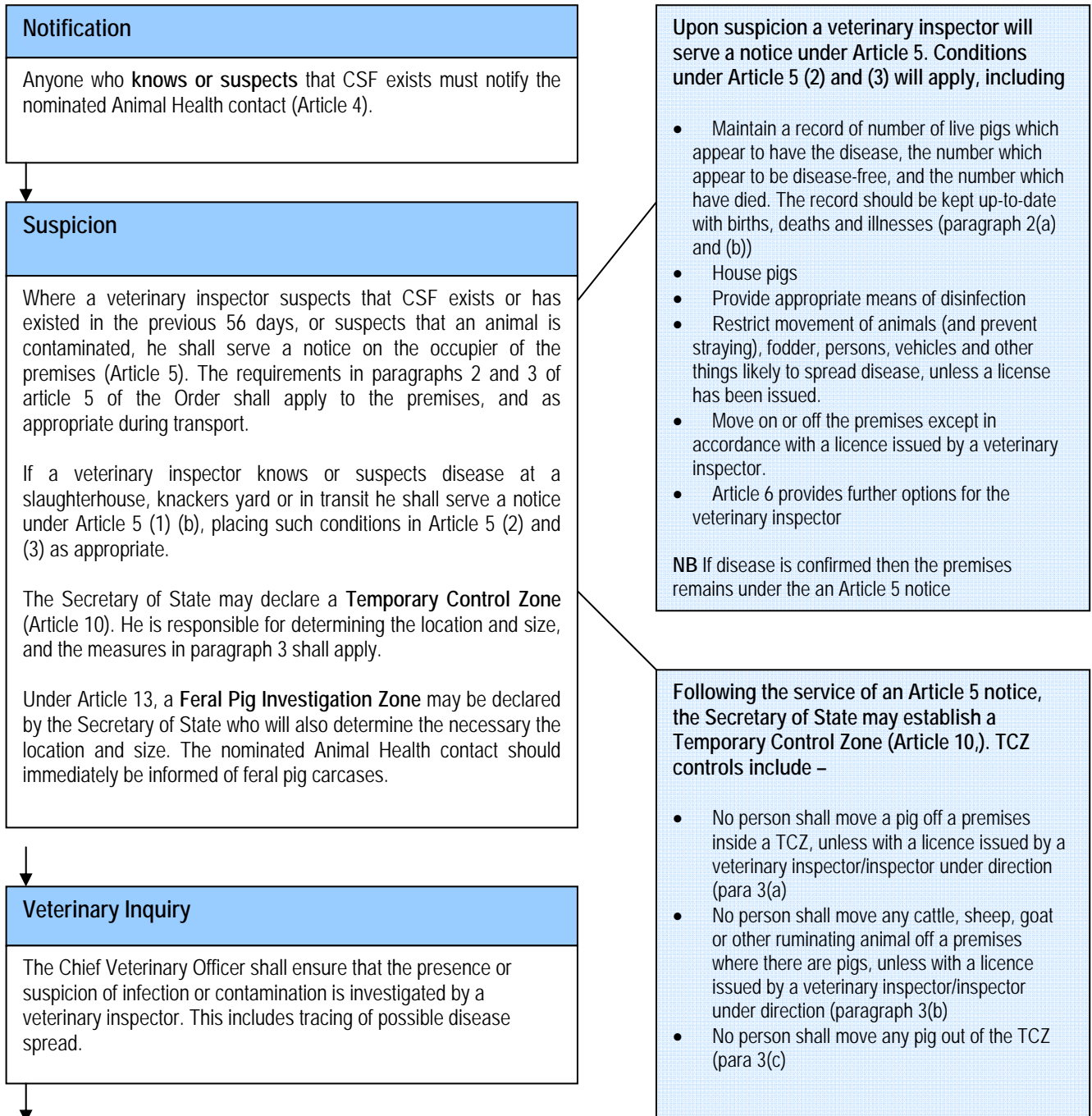
The Pig Veterinary Society (PVS)

<http://www.pigvetsoc.org.uk/>

The Pig Veterinary Society exists to assist its members to care for pigs, through dissemination of knowledge about health, disease, the pig's welfare and its management.

5. Overview of Disease Stages and Controls

The following diagram details the various stages of a Classical Swine Fever outbreak, and the restrictions that would be applied under The Classical Swine Fever (England) Order 2003.



Infected Area – Declaration of Protection and Surveillance Zones

Upon confirmation of the disease by the CVO, the Secretary of State shall declare an area to be a Protection Zone (Article 11(1)). This shall be centred on the infected premises and have a radius of at least 3km. The measures outlined in Schedule 1 Part I will apply.

The Secretary of State shall declare an area to be a Surveillance Zone (Article 11(1)). This shall be centred on the same premises and have a radius of at least 10km. The measures outlined in Schedule 1 Part II will apply.

Where the disease is of a feral pig, a Feral Pig Infected Zone shall be declared (Articles 13 (upon suspicion) and 14 (upon confirmation). Article 14(2) states that the Secretary of State may apply all of the measures outlined in Schedule II, and ban hunting / feeding feral pigs.

Feral pigs

Upon suspicion of CSF in feral pigs or a Feral Pig Investigation Zone may be declared (Article 13).

Where disease is confirmed the Secretary of State may apply any or all of the restrictions/conditions of Schedule 2.

Schedule 1 Part 1 – Measures in the Protection Zone

Movements

- No movements of pigs within the PZ without a veterinary licence, unless the movement is transiting the zone or pigs are directly transported from outside the PZ to a slaughterhouse within the PZ (para 2c)
- Pig transport vehicles may only be moved out of the PZ once cleansed and disinfected under the supervision of an inspector and under a licence issued by an inspector or if transiting through PZ (para 3)
- Occupiers must prevent other domestic animals entering or leaving their premises in the PZ unless under licence issued by a veterinary inspector/inspector under direction(para 4)
- No person to remove pig semen, ova or embryos from a premises in the PZ(para 5)
- Pigs are not to leave their premises within the PZ until 30 days after C&D and under licence issued by a veterinary inspector/inspector under direction (para 6)
- Welfare movements may be allowed after 30 days under licence issued by a veterinary inspector/inspector under direction (para 7)
- Dead/diseased pigs found on PZ premises to be reported to the nominated Animal Health contact (para 8)

Biosecurity

- Vehicles or equipment used for the transport of pigs, other livestock or potentially contaminated material must be promptly C&D'd under direction and supervision of a veterinary inspector/inspector under direction (para 9)
- No person shall enter or leave any holding within the PZ wearing clothing visibly contaminated with mud, slurry, faeces, droppings, excretions or any other matter and without cleansing and disinfecting any contaminated footwear(para 10)

Schedule 1 Part 2 – Measures in Surveillance Zones

Movements

- No movements of pigs within the SZ without a licence issued by a veterinary inspector/inspector under direction, unless the movement is transiting the zone or pigs are directly transported from outside the SZ to a slaughterhouse within the SZ (para 11)
- Pig transport vehicles may only be moved out of the SZ once cleansed and disinfected or if transiting through SZ (para 13)
- Within seven days of creation of SZ, occupiers must prevent other domestic animals entering or leaving their premises unless licensed by an inspector (para 14)
- No person to remove pig semen, ova or embryos from a premises in the SZ (para 15)
- Pigs are not to leave their premises within the SZ until 21 days after C&D and under licence issued by a veterinary inspector/inspector under direction (para 16)
- Welfare movements may be allowed after 30 days under licence of a veterinary inspector/inspector under direction (para 17)
- Dead/diseased pigs found on SZ premises to be reported to the nominated Animal Health contact (para 20)

Biosecurity

- Vehicles or equipment used for the transport of pigs, other livestock or potentially contaminated material must be promptly C&D'd under supervision of a veterinary inspector/inspector under direction, or other person appointed by the SOS (para 18)
- No person shall enter or leave any holding within the SZ wearing clothing visibly contaminated with mud, slurry, faeces, droppings, excretions or any other matter and without cleansing and disinfecting any contaminated footwear (para 19)

Feral Pig Investigation Zone (Article 13)

- Secretary of State may publicise existence of a Feral Pig Investigation zone
- Persons shooting or finding carcase of a feral pig to immediately inform the nominated Animal Health contact

Feral Pig Infected Area (Article 14 and Schedule 2)

- Secretary of State may publicise existence of Feral Pig Infected Area
- Pig keepers to maintain a census and keep pigs/material/equipment isolated from feral pigs
- Disinfectant at entrances/exits of pig pens and holdings
- No pigs may move on/off holdings unless under licence issued by a veterinary inspector /inspector under direction

Persons shooting or finding carcase of a feral pig to immediately inform the nominated Animal Health contact

- No export of any pig, semen, ovum or embryo
- Secretary of State may ban hunting within the Infected Area



Lifting Restrictions

Restrictions will continue to apply until the declaration creating the PZ or SZ is amended or revoked.

- In the PZ, pigs cannot be moved off any holding for at least 30 days after completion of preliminary C&D of the infected holding. Then can only move under licence (Schedule 1, part 1)
- In the SZ, the above applies 21 days after C&D (Schedule 1, part 2)

6. Plan Implementation – Local Authority Functions / Responsibilities

There is a clear range of specific functions that must be performed by a local authority in the event of a notifiable animal disease situation. The majority of these functions remain the same for all types of notifiable animal disease, and therefore are comprehensively detailed within the Generic Plan, including job specifications. It also contains a summary of key actions to take within the first 24 hours of an animal disease outbreak and a template agenda for initial meetings.

6.1 Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Function– Classical Swine Fever

The role performed by the Animal Health and Welfare Inspector will change in consideration of legislative duties, and the operational requirements that are unique to each disease. As a result each individual annex includes further details of what is required from that role in consideration of the unique requirements of each disease.

The details provided below must be utilised in conjunction with the Generic Plan.

6.1.1 Initiation and Activation – Classical Swine Fever

The principle consideration for local authorities in the event of a CSF outbreak will be effective enforcement of movement controls (including those of people onto suspect/infected premises), cleansing and disinfection requirements and advising/enforcing the many other restrictions contained within the CSF Order. This reflects the national control policies in order to prevent spread of disease;

- Slaughter – based on risk,
- Disinfection
- Movement controls.

6.1.2 Animal Health and Welfare Inspector Job Specification – Classical Swine Fever

In the event of an outbreak of CSF, it is likely that the local authority will require a number of individuals to fulfil the role of Animal Health and Welfare Inspector. As with all other roles, the level of resource dedicated to this post will depend upon the nature and extent of the disease situation. If necessary, authorities should consider the secondment of officers from other local authorities.

The paragraphs below aim to provide further details about the activities to be carried out by an Animal Health and Welfare Inspector that are required as a consequence of an outbreak of CSF.

Key Responsibilities	
1.	<p>Enforcement of legislation</p> <p>This specifically relates to the enforcement of the Classical Swine Fever (England) Order 2003. However, local authority animal health and welfare inspectors should always be aware of all animal health and welfare legislative responsibilities.</p>
2.	<p>Erection of Signs</p> <p>Unlike FMD and HPAI outbreaks, where local authorities have the responsibility for erecting road signs at the edge of restricted zones. The Classical Swine Fever Order, Article 11 (5), provides the discretionary power for the Secretary of State to exhibit notices and signs on property within the infected area.</p> <p>Local authorities may be involved in the practical implementation of this requirement should the power be used. Consideration will need to be given to the closure of rights of way that cross suspect or infected premises.</p>
3.	<p>Enforcement of Movement Restrictions</p> <p>Local authorities are responsible for monitoring and enforcing the movement restrictions in The Classical Swine Fever (England) Order 2003. These include movement of live animals, animal products such as meat, fodder and dung or other things likely to spread disease. In partnership with Animal Health and the Police, for example, the animal health and welfare enforcement Inspector will be responsible for completing patrols, responding to intelligence and enforcing as appropriate.</p>
4.	<p>Monitoring Cleansing and Disinfection Requirements</p> <p>Local authorities are responsible for enforcing the cleansing and disinfection requirements (Article 12) of The Classical Swine Fever (England) Order 2003. In addition, the requirements of Article 5 (2) should be adhered to.</p> <p>Cleansing and disinfection should be carried out in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection (England) (No. 3) Order 2003, and also with regard to any advice and information issued by Defra on biosecurity, cleansing and disinfection of livestock vehicles and approved disinfectants.</p>
5.	<p>Restrictions in relation to feral pigs</p> <p>Where CSF is confirmed in a feral pig then the Secretary of State can exercise various powers. Local authorities would be responsible for enforcing these and therefore should consider the resource and practical implications of these.</p> <p>Possible restrictions are detailed in Article 14 of the CSF Order, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an infected area. • Suspend hunting and feeding of feral pigs.

Key Responsibilities	
6.	Dissemination of Guidance and Information Animal Health and Welfare Inspectors will need to ensure that accurate guidance and information is provided to members of the community, including provision of leaflets or letters during all intelligence and enforcement work. Section 7 of this Annex provides some further information on producing advice leaflets/letters.

6.2 Other Local Authority Services – Classical Swine Fever

There is a range of key local authority services that play an essential role in the event of a notifiable animal disease outbreak, as outlined in the Generic Plan.

6.3 Stand Down and Recovery - Classical Swine Fever

Depending upon the extent, duration and pig density, all of which will determine the potential impact on the local economy of CSF, a Strategic Recovery Group may need to be established. This should comprise of representatives from services across the local authority, and could even engage the local community, for example tourism, business and industry groups. The Strategic Recovery Group should continue to monitor the economic status of the local area with a view to ensuring satisfactory recovery.

Other local authority services should also follow the stand down and recovery procedures laid down in the Generic Plan.

7. Useful Information and Advice

7.1 Advice on Writing Public Information and Advice Leaflets/Letters

This section contains advice on the type of information that could be included within advisory leaflets or letters. Local authorities will also wish to tailor the advice and information to reflect priorities in their own local area. The content of such leaflets or letters must pay particular regard to the contents of the Declaratory Order and be agreed locally with Animal Health.

Information and advice leaflets could include:

- Information on the declared zones, including a link to Defra website showing the extent of the zones.
- Clinical signs of CSF.
- Advice on contacting the nominated Animal Health contact if suspect pigs are affected.
- Movement restrictions. This should include a link to information and General Licences on Defra website. It might be possible to include a list of General Licences available; however it will not be possible to provide information on all types of movement restrictions.
- Cleansing and disinfection / biosecurity requirements
- Practical advice on biosecurity.
- Requirements to keep records
- Importance of preventing animals from straying.
- Controls on animal gatherings and gatherings of people.
- Contact details for local authority, including specifically Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Team, Local Animal Health Office.
- Details of local authority and Defra websites.
- List of frequently asked questions, see below.

7.2 Frequently Asked Questions

Information largely from Defra website, updated 24th January 2008.

The nature of the disease

What is it?

Classical Swine Fever, also known as hog cholera, is a highly contagious disease affecting both domestic pigs and wild boar (feral). When it first enters a herd it can spread very rapidly; a high proportion of the pigs may become ill with a high fever, and many of them may die. It is caused by a virus, not to be confused with African Swine Fever (the two diseases can only be differentiated in a laboratory).

How is it spread?

The most common method of the disease spreading is pigs consuming infected pork or pork products. Movement of infected pigs will also carry the disease, as apparently healthy animals may carry the disease for long periods of time. Given that CSF can also be spread via excreta, and can live outside the body for some time, the movement of contaminated vehicles, equipment, clothing and footwear will also spread the disease.

Where does it occur?

CSF is endemic in much of Asia, Central and South America, and parts of Europe and Africa. It has been eradicated in North America, Oceania, Scandinavia and Ireland. The UK officially eradicated the disease in 1966, with several subsequent outbreaks. The most recent of these was in East Anglia in 2000.

Can people contract the disease?

Classical Swine Fever cannot be contracted or carried by people. As a result there are no human health implications.

What are the signs?

Affected pigs may show any of a wide range of clinical signs, as the virus affects most organs and systems of the body. Some pigs may be found dead without previous signs of ill-health being noted. Where symptoms do present, affected animals refuse to feed, are dull and reluctant to move, and show a high fever with blotching or discolouration of the skin. They may huddle together, develop discharges from the eyes, or become constipated followed by diarrhoea. Some pigs may cough or vomit. Some pigs may have convulsions and pregnant sows may abort. Less severe forms of the infection may produce very little apparent illness but be followed by abortion, reduced litter size or the birth of weak or trembling piglets.

What kinds of virus are there?

There are three serotypes, which all produce similar symptoms and effects.

How is the virus destroyed?

The virus is destroyed by chloroform, some other chemicals, detergents and most disinfectants. It can persist for long periods in chilled or frozen meat and in preserved ham or bacon. Drying in air inactivates the virus although it survives drying in a vacuum.

What are the effects of CSF?

CSF can cause rapid and widespread ill health, suffering and death among the herds it affects. While there is no human health implication, uncontrolled disease could have a serious impact on the pig industry and our ability to trade internationally, with subsequent ramifications for the rest of society.

Can CSF be cured?

There is no cure for CSF. A vaccine is available, but current domestic policy on vaccination does not permit the use of routine vaccination as a measure of disease control. This can be reviewed during a disease outbreak situation.

Disease control measures

How is the disease controlled?

In order to eradicate the virus and restore the UK's disease-free status as quickly as possible, the Government will work to contain the disease using a series of zones, in which movements are restricted. In addition, all pigs on infected premises are likely to be slaughtered, regardless of whether they show signs of the disease, as a pre-emptive measure.

What happens when a suspect animal is found?

The owner of a suspected animal or carcase must by law report the fact to the Animal Health agency. The owner is not expected to diagnose the disease, but he ought to know enough about the disease to suspect it. All owners and stockmen should make themselves familiar with the symptoms, and call in a veterinary surgeon as early as possible; they should never ask another stock-owner to look at the suspected animal.

Restrictions are imposed on the premises from the time of notification prohibiting any animal, person or thing entering or leaving the premises without permission, and a Defra Veterinary Officer (VO) makes an investigation. If signs suggest CSF is present, the VO, after consulting Defra HQ, will sign a notice which prohibits the movement of animals within a given radius of the premises concerned and arrange for sample material from the affected animal(s) to be sent to the Institute of Animal Health for testing. The Chief Veterinary Officer will confirm the outbreak if the laboratory results confirm the presence of CSF virus.

What happens if disease is confirmed?

On confirmation of the disease a Protection Zone will be imposed with a minimum radius of 3km around the Infected Premises and a Surveillance Zone with a minimum radius of 10km.

Notices are posted at all entrances to the premises and the movement of people on and off the farm is controlled. Public footpaths are closed, but other public rights of way remain open. An approved disinfectant must be used to disinfect footwear, clothing and vehicles before entering or leaving the premises. As soon as possible after confirmation of disease the infected animals are valued and slaughtered. Other susceptible animals are then valued and they too are slaughtered without delay.

What are dangerous contacts?

Dangerous contacts are pigs which have been exposed directly or indirectly to the risk of infection, either by movements of vehicles, people or animals, or by their proximity to a confirmed case.

How are carcasses disposed of?

Carcasses will be disposed of, usually through rendering or incineration though other options are available. However, on-farm burial or burning will not be used as they are prohibited by the Animal By-Product Regulations.

What measures are taken to prevent the further spread of disease?

After completion of carcass disposal a thorough preliminary disinfection of the premises is carried out. The infected place restrictions are maintained prohibiting unauthorised movement on to or off the premises. Further cleansing and disinfection may also be required.

8. Additional Information Sources

There is a range of information available to local authorities, the farming community and the general public in relation to CSF.

It is essential that local authorities maintain an awareness of the information issued by central government at all times, but particularly during a disease situation. LACORS will also maintain up to date information specifically for local authorities.

LACORS Information

LACORS guidance for local authorities on road and access signs in a disease situation. <http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=15694&docType=C>

LACORS contingency plans and other information

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=18346&docType=C>

LACORS Guidance on secondment of Officers to support other local authorities, including information on authorisations

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=14916&docType=C>

Defra biosecurity guidance for visitors to premises with poultry or farmed animals <http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=15594&docType=C>

Defra guidance on farm visits during FMD outbreak

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=17195&docType=C>

Other Specific Information

Defra - CSF General information

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/csf/index.htm>

Defra – CSF Legislation

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/csf/index.htm#legislation>

Defra – CSF Disease Control

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/csf/index.htm#controlstrat>

Defra – General Biosecurity

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/control/biosecurity/index.htm>

Defra – Cleansing and Disinfection of Livestock Vehicles

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/control/biosecurity/cleansing.htm>

Defra – Guidance on Cleansing and Disinfection of Animal Transport

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/control/biosecurity/candd.htm>

Defra – Approved Disinfectants

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/control/testing_disinfectants.htm