



National Pig Centre



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



The UK's largest and most advanced facility for research into pig nutrition, behaviour, welfare & health and production systems

The National Pig Centre co-develops research programmes in collaboration with academic and industry partners to address current agricultural challenges.

Research staff and technicians are experienced in designing and conducting high quality research projects in pig science.

The Centre has been designed to perform:

- ✓ Nutrition trials from farrow to finish, with capabilities to provide specific diets both for replicate pens of pigs and for individual pigs within a group.
- ✓ Evaluation of different housing and management systems, including:
 - Indoor vs outdoor production systems.
 - Farrowing systems: Conventional crates vs loose farrowing systems.
 - Flexi-penning for flexibility with trial design.
- ✓ Water preference or water-based treatment trials

Additional features include:

- ✓ CCTV throughout the whole facility for 24/7 pig behaviour, welfare and farrowing assessments.
- ✓ Dissection facilities for tissue collection and a laboratory for sample processing.
- ✓ Ultrasound scanner for collection of in utero measurements.

Conference facilities

The National Pig Centre's Nigel Bertram Visitor Centre can accommodate up to 60 people and is equipped with audio visual equipment, including live feed into the pig facility, making it an ideal space for seminars, lectures and workshops.

- There is the capacity to accommodate an additional 40 people through use of the adjoining Breakout Room.
- A formal meeting room equipped with presentation equipment that can accommodate up to seven people.

Outdoor facility

The UK's only outdoor pig research facility

This facility houses 220 Large White x Landrace x Duroc sows and operates on a three-week batch farrowing system, in sync with the indoor herd. Outdoor reared pigs are raised on the unit until approximately 8kg live-weight / 4 weeks of age and sold RSPCA assured.

Sow Research

- 220 sows are penned in seven static groups of around 30 with capability to identify and feed all sows individually
- Farrowing sows are housed individually in one of 60 paddocks each equipped with a farrowing ark
- Sire line – as required for specific trials
- Sows are fed in a feeding crate during lactation, allowing sow and piglet measurements to be safely carried out
- Farrowing arks are equipped with CCTV to monitor farrowing and sow/piglet behaviour

Indoor facility

State of the art indoor pig research capability

Accommodating a 440-sow integrated herd, producing over 12,000 pigs per year, the unit operates on a three-week batch farrowing system and houses pigs from birth through to market weight.

The combination of the indoor system with an outdoor sow unit is unique in Europe, enabling direct comparison of the different rearing systems.

The facility is equipped with CCTV throughout, permitting round the clock behaviour and individual pig observations to be made at all stages of production. The technology elicits detailed data (visual and individual feed/weight) with minimal intervention.

Breeding Herd

- Large White x Landrace damline with capability to be fed specific individual diets throughout the reproductive cycle
- Sire line – as required for specific trials
- Dry sows are housed in a dynamic group on a straw-based system and fed individually from electronic sow feeders (ESFs) supplying a choice of six diets or specific blends
- Gilt dynamic group with ESFs, each supplying a choice of six diets or specific blends thereof, with a separate training area
- Automated heat detection

Farrowing Building

- 120 individual fully-slatted farrowing pens equipped with opening crates for loose nursing sows
- 10 individual piglet rearing pens with capabilities for individual piglet feed, drink and weight recording

Nursery Building

- Nine fully-slatted rooms housing 240 trial pigs each from weaning to 35 kg body weight
- Flexi-penning to house 5, 10 or 20 pigs per pen
- Individual pig monitoring including feed intake, time spent at feeder, water intake and body weight
- Two separate water lines to all pens, allowing for water-based treatment trials

Finisher Building

- Four finisher buildings each comprising fully slatted rooms for pigs from 35 kg to market weight. Rooms can be configured to hold pens of 5, 10 or 20 pigs
- Individual pig monitoring including feed intake, time spent at feeder, water intake and body weight
- 1 room equipped with individual slurry pits and feed wastage collection equipment
- Two separate water lines allowing for water-based treatment trials

Contact

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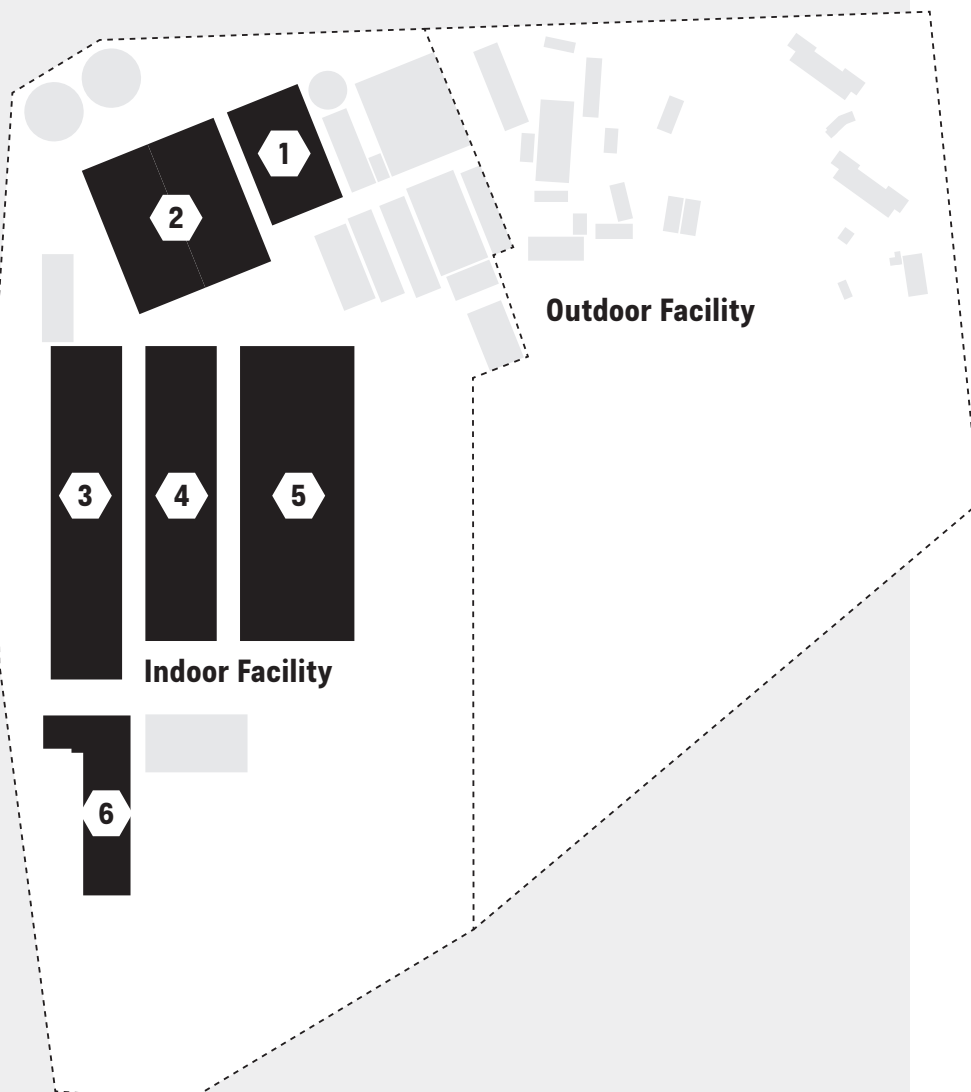
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Schematic layout

> National Pig Centre

- 1 Finishing 673m²
- 2 Finishing 1610m²
- 3 Dry Sows & Gilts 1732m²
- 4 Farrowing Pens 1489m²
- 5 Precision Nursery 2607m²
- 6 Conference Centre and Laboratory



Plan for illustrative purposes only



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