

Public Protection (food & safety)

Food Premises Inspection Report

Name of business:	Birch
Address of food business:	Lower Ground Floor Woburn Court, NR2 1JG
Date of inspection:	09/06/2026
Risk rating reference:	26/00450/FOOD
Premises reference:	26/00007/FD_HS
Type of premises:	Restaurant or cafe
Areas inspected:	Servery, Main Kitchen
Records examined:	FSMS, Temperature Control Records
Details of samples procured:	None
Summary of action taken:	Informal
General description of business:	Bar with Catering

Relevant Legislation

Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended)
 Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 applied by The General Food Regulations 2004 (as amended)
 Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and No 853/2004 applied by Regulation 19 (1) of the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013
 Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and related regulations
 Food Information Regulations 2014

What you must do to comply with the law

The report may include **Contraventions** - matters which do not comply with the law. You must address all of the contraventions identified; failure to do so could result in legal action being taken against you.

As a guide, contraventions relating to cleaning, temperature control and poor practice, should be dealt with straight away.

Contraventions relating to structural repairs, your food safety management system and staff training, should be completed within the next 2 months.

Health and safety contraventions should be dealt with within 3 months unless otherwise stated.

To assist you the report may also include **Observations** of current practice, useful **Information, Recommendations** of good practice and reminders of **Legal Requirements**.

My inspection was not intended to identify every contravention of the law and only covers those areas, practices and procedures examined at the time of the inspection. If the report fails to mention a particular matter this does not mean you have necessarily complied with the law.

FOOD SAFETY

How we calculate your Food Hygiene Rating:

The food safety section has been divided into the three areas which you are scored against for the hygiene rating: 1. food hygiene and safety procedures, 2. structural requirements and 3. confidence in management/control procedures. Each section begins with a summary of what was observed and the score you have been given. Details of how these scores combine to produce your overall food hygiene rating are shown in the table.

Compliance Area	You Score					
Food Hygiene and Safety	0	5	10	15	20	25
Structure and Cleaning	0	5	10	15	20	25
Confidence in management & control systems	0	5	10	15	20	30
Your Total score	0 - 15	20	25 - 30	35 - 40	45 - 50	> 50
Your Worst score	5	10	10	15	20	-
Your Rating is	5	4	3	2	1	0

Your Food Hygiene Rating is 4 - a good standard



1. Food Hygiene and Safety

Food hygiene standards are high. You demonstrated a very good standard of compliance with legal requirements. You have safe food handling practices and procedures and all the necessary control measures to prevent cross-contamination are in place. Some minor contraventions require your attention. **(5)**

Contamination risks

Contravention The following exposed ready-to-eat food and or its packaging to the risk of cross-contamination with foodborne bacteria from raw meat or unwashed fruits and vegetables:

- brown cutting board was badly scored and needs replacing

Legal requirement At all stages of production, processing and distribution, food must be protected from any contamination likely to render it unfit for human consumption, injurious to health or contaminated in such a way that it would be unreasonable to expect it to be consumed in that state.

Recommendation Chopping/cutting boards were held stable with tea towels/cloths and could contaminate the board. Use silicone board mats to stabilise your cutting boards. These can be placed in the dishwasher and /or can be sterilised.

Hand washing

Observation I was pleased to see hand washing was well managed.

Personal Hygiene

Observation I was pleased to see that standards of personal hygiene were high.

Temperature Control

Observation I was pleased to see you were able to limit bacterial growth and/or survival by applying appropriate temperature controls at points critical to food safety and that you were monitoring temperatures.

Poor Practices

Contravention The following matters represented poor practice and if allowed to continue may cause food to become contaminated or lead to its deterioration:

- prepared foods were being stored longer than the recommended 3 days

Recommendation You should have a system to identify when open or prepared foods need to be used by or discarded, to ensure the food is fit for consumption. I recommend you apply labels which give a day or date that is 2 days after the day of production e.g. if food is opened on Monday it should be used by the end of Wednesday. (An exception is cooked rice which should not be kept longer than 24 hours)

2. Structure and Cleaning

The structure facilities and standard of cleaning and maintenance are of a generally satisfactory standard but there are some repairs and/or improvements which are required in order for you to comply with the law. Pest control and waste disposal provisions are adequate. The contraventions require your attention; although not critical to food safety they may become so if not addressed. **(10)**

Cleaning of Structure

Contravention The following items were dirty and require more frequent and thorough cleaning:

- floor/wall junctions
- flooring underneath equipment
- pipe work
- walls
- airvent to wall

Cleaning of Equipment and Food Contact Surfaces

Contravention The following items are dirty and must be cleaned:

- seals to fridge

Cleaning Chemicals / Materials / Equipment and Methods

Observation I was pleased to see that the premises was kept clean and that your cleaning materials, methods and equipment were able to minimise the spread of harmful bacteria between surfaces.

Maintenance

Contravention The following had not been suitably maintained and must be repaired or replaced:

- holes to wall
- cover to airvent

Facilities and Structural provision

Observation I was pleased to see the premises had been well maintained and that adequate facilities had been provided.

Pest Control

Contravention Pest proofing is inadequate particularly in the following areas:

- cover to airvent missing allowing entry to pest

3. Confidence in Management

A food safety management system is in place and you demonstrate a very good standard of compliance with the law. You have a good track record. There are some minor contraventions which require your attention. **(5)**

Type of Food Safety Management System Required

Observation You were date labelling perishable foods appropriately and could demonstrate effective control over food spoilage organisms.

Observation You were monitoring (and recording) the temperatures of your fridges and freezers as well as the temperature of cooked/hot-held food and could demonstrate effective systems for controlling bacterial growth and survival.

Observation Your SFBB/food safety management system was in place and working well. I was confident you had effective control over hazards to food.

Observation You had colour-coded equipment and effective separation between raw and ready-to-eat food at all stages in your operation.

Food Safety Management System that works

Contravention The following matters demonstrate your Food Safety management system is not working as it should:

- more attention is needed to cleaning

- maintenance issues need to be recorded in your food safety management system and when actioned

Traceability

Observation Your records were such that food could easily be traced back to its supplier.

Infection Control / Sickness / Exclusion Policy

Observation Policies were in place to prevent any infected food handler from contaminating food.

Waste Food and other Refuse

Observation You had measures in place to dispose of waste food appropriately and were employing the services of an approved waste contractor.

Allergens

Observation You had devised a chart listing all the food you provide with the allergens present in each and had brought this to the attention of your staff and customers.