

Schools, care homes and Armed Forces supplied by firm selling contaminated beef

School pupils, care home residents and Armed Forces personnel have all been supplied with meat from a catering giant found to be providing beef products contaminated with horse.

Sodexo, which supplies to 2,300 outlets, is withdrawing beef from its UK sites "with immediate effect" as the scale of the scandal widened yet further today.

In a second wave of tests, the products linked to samples containing horse DNA were Sodexo's beef burgers, minced beef and halal minced beef, Asda's chilled beef bolognese sauce and a Whitbread Group lasagne and beef burger.

The catering at Ascot Racecourse, which is attended each year by the Queen, is run by Sodexo Prestige, according to the firm's website, and the company won four awards in last year's National Racecourse Catering Awards for its food.

A Sodexo spokeswoman would not confirm which of its sites had been supplied with the frozen products however.

She also declined to name the supplier of the beef products that tested positive for horse DNA and would not say if it was a British or Irish manufacturer.