Avian Influenza Prevention Zone Guide
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This guide has been produced from the information provided by Suffolk County Council and ACTSO.
1. **Summary**

1.1 Since 3 November, highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 has been found in dead wild birds in Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. These outbreaks have affected various wild bird species, including Tufted Ducks (Aythya fuligula), Common Pochard (Aythya ferina), gull species, wild geese, wild swans and various other wild waterfowl and raptors.

1.2 The Secretary of State for the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has declared an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone for the whole of England. The declaration is in effect from the 14:30 on the 6th December 2016 until **14:30 on the 6th January 2017**. Declarations have also been made by the Scottish Government and Welsh Government.

1.3 However, this is not an Avian influenza outbreak and the measures below are a precautionary measure as a response to the above to highlight the increased risk and to encourage poultry keepers to minimise UK domestic bird contact with wild birds (or anything else potentially contaminated by wild birds) that may carry the Avian Influenza virus.

1.4 Poultry keepers across Great Britain must now keep chickens, hens, ducks, and turkeys housed where practicable, or keep them separate from wild birds by some other means. For farmed geese, game birds and other captive birds where housing is less practicable, keepers must take other steps to keep them separate from wild birds.

1.5 For further advice on the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone and the measures associated with the declaration please contact the Licensing Team on 020 7641 1884 or email licensing@westminster.gov.uk.
2. **The Prevention Measures**

2.1 The declaratory order states that any person in charge of poultry and captive birds must take all appropriate and practicable steps to ensure that:

(a) poultry are housed or otherwise kept separate from wild birds;

(b) other captive birds are kept separate from wild birds;

(c) poultry and other captive birds are provided with feed and water which is not accessible to wild birds.

(d) any person who comes into contact with poultry and other captive birds must take all reasonable precautions to avoid the transfer of contamination between premises, including cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles, and footwear;

(e) steps are taken to reduce the movement of people, vehicles, or equipment to and from areas where poultry or captive birds are kept to minimise contamination from manure, slurry, and other products;

(f) steps are taken to implement effective vermin control programmes, including preventing the entry of wild birds, around buildings where poultry or captive birds are kept;

(g) housing and equipment is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected at the end of a production cycle;

(h) disinfectant at the right concentration is kept at all points where people should use it, such as farm entrances and before entering poultry housing or enclosures.

2.2 The full controls are can be found on the .GOV page linked below.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu
3. Signs of the Avian Influenza disease

3.1 The disease spreads from bird to bird by direct contact or through contaminated body fluids and faeces and poultry affected may show the following symptoms:

- swollen head
- blue discolouration of neck and throat
- loss of appetite
- respiratory distress such as gaping beak, coughing, sneezing, gurgling, rattling
- diarrhoea
- fewer eggs laid
- increased mortality

3.2 Low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) is usually less serious. It can cause mild breathing problems, but affected birds will not always show clear signs of infection.
4. **Housing**

4.1 Ensure that wild birds are prevented from gaining access to your birds by covering any openings with netting. This should have sufficiently small holes to exclude wild birds from passing through the openings. If your birds spend time outside you will need to consider alternative arrangements. There are different housing options which you can consider, including:

- Erecting a solid lean-to on the side of existing houses.
- Erecting a new temporary structure with solid walls and roof, or a poly tunnel. (A poly tunnel will be suitable only in cooler weather)

4.2 Any proposed building must take into account the welfare requirements of the birds, in particular the importance of adequate ventilation.

4.3 When using a **netted structure**, paying special attention to keeping wild birds from perching on the roof and defecating through it by for example creating a secured tarpaulin roof.

4.4 **Captive wildfowl and waterfowl** Birds should be housed whenever possible. As a minimum, all feeding and watering should take place under cover or in some form of structure to exclude wild birds as far as possible. Separate birds from wild birds by netting their enclosures, and make sensible use of deterrents to reduce their contact with wild birds if practical. You should consider moving your birds away from large bodies of water that attract wildfowl. Where separation is not possible, for example where there are large numbers of waterfowl, every effort should be made to discourage wild birds and keep feed separate.
5. **Frequently asked questions**

- Hunting is not banned.

- All licenced poultry shows & sales can go ahead as normal.

- All transport of poultry is permitted as normal.

- Human risk - The avian influenza virus changes frequently, creating new strains, and there is a constant risk that one of the new strains may spread easily among people. But there is no evidence that any recent strain of avian influenza has been able to spread directly between people. (Avian influenza isn't an airborne disease).

- If you keep or visit domestic poultry do not feed or encourage wild birds or go to place any places containing large amounts of wild birds.

- Racing pigeons must be kept housed.

- Jays Fluid is an effective(cheap) approved disinfectant suitable for Avian Influenza
6. Reporting and handling dead wild birds

6.1 If you find dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese, or ducks) or gulls, or 5 or more dead wild birds of other species in the same location, you should report them to the Defra helpline (Tel: 03459 33 55 77). Below is some guidance on handling dead birds, although please advise the public not to do so.

1. **Avoid touching the bird** with your bare hands
2. If possible, wear disposable protective gloves when picking up and handling (if disposable gloves are not available see point 7 below)
3. Place the dead bird in a suitable plastic bag, preferably leak proof. Care should be taken not to contaminate the outside of the bag
4. Tie the bag and place it in a second plastic bag
5. Remove gloves by turning them inside out and then place them in the second plastic bag. Tie the bag and dispose of in the normal household refuse bin.
6. Hands should then be washed thoroughly with soap and water
7. If disposable gloves are not available, a plastic bag can be used as a make-shift glove. When the dead bird has been picked up, the bag can be turned back on itself and tied. It should then be placed in a second plastic bag, tied, and disposed of in the normal household waste
8. Alternatively, the dead bird can be buried, but not in a plastic bag
9. Any clothing that has been in contact with the dead bird should be washed using ordinary washing detergent at the temperature normally used for washing the clothing.
10. Any contaminated indoor surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned with normal household cleaner.
7. Legislation, power’s, and definitions summary

The Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (England) Regulations 2006

the Act” means the Animal Health Act 1981(1);

keeper” means the person with day to day responsibility for poultry or other captive birds at any premises.

premises” includes any land, building or place;

Inspector” means an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State or by a local authority for the purposes of these Regulations or under the Act and, unless the context otherwise requires, includes a veterinary inspector;

Poultry” means a bird reared or kept in captivity, for the production of meat or eggs for consumption, or of other products, for restocking supplies of game or for the purposes of any breeding programme for the production of such categories of birds;

other captive bird” means a bird kept in captivity which is not poultry and includes a pet bird and a bird kept for shows, races, exhibitions, competitions, breeding or for sale;

vehicle” includes—
   (a) a trailer, semi-trailer or other thing designed or adapted to be towed by another vehicle;
   (b) a detachable part of any vehicle; and
   (c) a container or other structure designed or adapted to be carried on a vehicle

An inspector performing a function under these Regulations may—

(a) mark any bird or other thing for identification purposes; and
(b) require, by notice, the person in charge of any vehicle or equipment to cleanse and disinfectant.

(2) A veterinary inspector or an inspector acting under his direction may, when performing his functions under these Regulations—

(a) cleanse and disinfect any part of premises or anything on those premises;
(b) require, by notice, the occupier of any premises to cleanse and disinfect any part of those premises or anything on those premises;
(c) require, by notice, the occupier of any premises or the keeper of any poultry or other captive bird—
   (i) to keep or isolate any poultry, other captive bird, or animal in a specified place;
   (ii) to separate any poultry, other captive bird or animal from any other animal or bird.
(3) The following provisions of the Act apply as if these Regulations were an Order made under the Act—
   (a) section 63 (general powers of inspectors);
   (b) section 64 (powers of inspectors as to poultry);
   (c) section 64A (18) (powers of inspectors relating to Community obligations), and
   (d) section 65(1) to (3) (power to detain vessels and aircraft).

Powers of inspectors in case of default

(1) If any person fails to comply with a requirement in or under these Regulations, an inspector may take such steps he considers necessary to ensure the requirement is met, at the expense of that person.

(2) An inspector's powers under paragraph (1) include power to require, by notice, any person to take or refrain from specified action in respect of any place, animal, bird, vehicle, or other, thing; and to seize and detain anything.
8. **Poultry Register**

8.1 If you own, or are responsible for, poultry flocks of 50 or more birds (not necessarily of the same species) and even if your premises are only stocked for part of the year, then you must, within one month of their arrival at your premises, register your flocks.

8.2 For poultry flocks of fewer than 50 birds, whilst law does not require you to register them, we still encourage you to do so as this means we can contact you quickly if there is an outbreak of disease. Further information and links to the relevant registration forms are available from:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/poultry-registration](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/poultry-registration)
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