

Declaration of an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

1. The Secretary of State has carried out a further risk assessment under article 6(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No 2) Order 2006¹ (“the Order”).

2. To reduce the risk of the transmission of avian influenza to poultry and other captive birds from wild birds or any other source, the Secretary of State considers it necessary to declare the whole of England to be an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone.

3. All keepers of poultry and other captive birds in any part of the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone must comply with the minimum biosecurity measures in Schedule 1.

4. All keepers of 500 or more poultry or other captive birds in any part of the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone must additionally comply with the measures in Schedule 2.

5. The risk assessment concludes that the whole of England is at a high risk of avian influenza but that parts of the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone are at higher risk and are therefore designated as “higher risk areas”. The higher risk areas are shown on the map in Schedule 6 and demarcated in detail on an interactive map² published by Defra.

6. Keepers of poultry and other captive birds located within higher risk areas must comply with Schedule 3 by either housing them or permitting them some access to fully enclosed or netted outdoor areas which prevent ingress by wild birds.

7. Keepers of poultry or other captive birds which are not located within the higher risk areas must comply with Schedule 4 by—

- (a) keeping their poultry or other captive birds housed;
- (b) permitting them some access to fully enclosed or netted outdoor areas; or
- (c) allowing access to fenced outdoor areas which are actively managed to minimise the risk of contact between poultry or other captive birds and wild birds.

8. A keeper of poultry or other captive birds at a zoo licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 and located within the higher risk area, as an alternative to complying with Schedule 3 may apply the measures in Schedule 5.

9. These measures apply from 00.01 on 28 February 2017 and shall remain in force until 00:01 on 30 April 2017 or until the declaration is otherwise amended or revoked by further declaration, whichever shall be sooner.

¹ S.I. 2006/2702

² the interactive map of higher risk areas is available at:
<http://www.gisdiseasemap.defra.gov.uk/intmaps/avian/map.jsp>

This Declaration is made under article 6(1)(a) of the Order.

Signed:

Gordon Hickman
20.15 on 27 February 2017

Copies of this Declaration and of the Order are available via
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>
and from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Fifth Floor, Nobel
House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR.

*Failure to comply with this Declaration may be an offence under section 73 of the
Animal Health Act 1981.*

This declaration was revoked from 00:01 on Thursday
13 April 2017 and replaced with a new declaration.

Notes:

- (1) Where avian influenza is confirmed in poultry or other captive birds at an individual premises, Protection and Surveillance Zones are declared to prevent the spread of disease beyond the area around the infected farm. Keepers of poultry or other captive birds kept within a Protection Zone or Surveillance Zone must comply with the biosecurity requirements declared specifically for such zones. This does not remove the obligation to comply with the additional biosecurity measures required by this Declaration, including enhanced biosecurity measures if the premises contains a large numbers of birds or is located in a higher risk area.
- (2) Keepers of poultry or other captive birds located within a Protection Zone declared around an infected premises must comply with housing requirements for a Protection Zone.
- (3) “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.
- (4) “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.
- (5) “keeper” for the purpose of this Declaration means any person who is responsible for poultry or other captive birds, whether on a permanent or temporary basis.
- (6) “premises” for the purpose of this Declaration means any house, shed, aviary, range netted area which is used to keep poultry or other captive birds and includes contiguous ancillary areas such as bird feed bins, and storage of bird manure.
- (7) Nothing in this Declaration removes obligations on keepers of poultry or other captive birds from existing animal welfare requirements, and private veterinary advice should be sought by a keeper who is concerned about the suitability of housing conditions.
- (8) Guidance on housing and additional biosecurity measures of birds may be found in Animal Health Act biosecurity guidance via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>.
- (9) Anyone who keeps poultry must keep a close watch on them for any signs of disease, and must seek prompt advice from their vet if they have any concerns. For details of how to report suspicion of disease see www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu.

This declaration was revoked from 00:01 on Thursday 13 April 2017 and replaced with a new declaration.

Schedule 1 - Minimum biosecurity measures applying to all keepers in all parts of the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

Any keeper of poultry and other captive birds, irrespective of the number of birds or how they are kept, must take appropriate and practicable steps, that can be demonstrated to an inspector on request, to ensure that—

- (1) precautions are taken to avoid the transfer of virus contamination between premises, including cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear;
- (2) where there are more than 50 poultry or other captive birds, place foot dip containing Defra-approved poultry disinfectant at strategic points including at the entry and exit of all houses or outdoor areas where birds are kept, and footwear must be cleaned using the dips on entry and exit or alternatively footwear should be changed when moving between bird and non-bird areas;
- (3) keepers with less than 50 poultry or other captive birds must take all reasonable precautions to avoid the transfer of contamination;
- (4) feed, water and bedding is not exposed to virus contamination;
- (5) effective vermin control is carried out in any part of the premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept;
- (6) the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from the part of the premises where poultry are kept is reduced to only essential movements for looking after their welfare, collecting eggs and feeding;
- (7) records are kept (other than in a zoo) of all vehicles that enter any part of the premises where poultry are kept and of all people who come into any direct contact with the poultry.

Schedule 2 –Enhanced biosecurity measures for premises with over 500 poultry

- (1) Any keeper of more than 500 poultry or other captive birds must, in addition to the minimum measures set out in Schedule 1, apply the following enhanced biosecurity measures in these separate parts of the poultry premises—
 - (a) a poultry (live-bird) part;
 - (b) a private (ancillary use) part; and
 - (c) a restricted access (bio-secure barrier) part.
- (2) The following measures apply to a poultry (live-bird) part of the premises—
 - (a) access is restricted to essential authorised personnel only;
 - (b) keepers must operate effective barrier hygiene, including changing clothing and footwear, before entering and on exit from the live-bird part;
 - (c) only essential equipment and vehicles are permitted to enter the live-bird part;
 - (d) the exterior of any vehicles (particularly wheels and wheel arches) and equipment which enter or leave the live-bird part of the premises must be cleansed and disinfected on both entry and exit; and

- (e) thorough cleansing and disinfecting (based on industry best practice) of housing and equipment must be undertaken at the end of a production cycle and before new birds are introduced; and
 - (f) records must be kept of vehicles and personnel entering and leaving the live-bird part.
- (3) The following measures apply to a private (ancillary use) part of the premises–
- (a) access is limited to essential personnel only and full biosecurity practices should be adopted on entry and exit to the part of the premises;
 - (b) the part of the premises should be fully separated from the live-bird part with a clear demarcation;
 - (c) waste and fallen stock must be held in appropriately biosecure facilities in this part of the premises with clear separation between both the live-bird part and the restricted access bio-secure barrier part; and
 - (d) the exterior of any vehicles (focussing on wheels and wheel arches) which enters or leaves the part must be cleansed and disinfected on both entry and exit.
- (4) The following measures apply to the restricted access (bio-secure barrier) part–
- (a) access by the public should be controlled and only essential workers or contractors should enter this bio-secure barrier part; and
 - (b) non-essential vehicles must not enter this bio-secure barrier part.

Schedule 3 –Requirements for keepers of poultry or other captive birds located within the higher risk areas of the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

- (1) Any keeper of poultry or other captive birds located within the higher risk areas must ensure they are kept in accordance with one or both of the paragraphs (2) and (3).
- (2) Poultry or other captive birds must be kept housed in accordance with the following conditions –
 - (a) the buildings must be suitable for the purpose;
 - (b) any openings must be covered with suitable mesh or netting which should be of a maximum size of 25mm mesh to prevent ingress from wild birds.
- (3) Poultry or other captive birds must be kept in fully enclosed or netted outdoor areas subject to–
 - (a) the outdoor area being fully enclosed with wire mesh, netting or other material which is capable of preventing ingress of wild birds;
 - (b) preventing direct contact with poultry or other captive birds on other premises
 - (c) preventing direct or indirect contact with wild birds or feathers or faecal material from wild birds;
 - (d) not placing any new structures or portable structures in areas to which wild birds may previously have had access or taking all reasonable steps to remove such contamination that may be present;

- (e) providing feed and water under cover where wild birds cannot gain access; and
 - (f) ensuring wild birds are not attracted to the vicinity of the outdoor area, in particular to standing water or ponds.
- (4) In all cases keepers must ensure they meet the needs of their birds in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Schedule 4 – Requirements for keepers of poultry or other captive birds which are not located within the higher risk areas of the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

- (1) Any keeper of poultry or other captive birds not located within the higher risk areas must ensure they are kept in accordance with one or more of the paragraphs (2), (3) and (4).
- (2) Poultry or other captive birds must be kept housed in accordance with the following conditions –
- (a) the buildings must be suitable for the purpose;
 - (b) any openings must be covered with suitable mesh or netting which should be of a maximum size of 25mm mesh to prevent ingress from wild birds.
- (3) Poultry or other captive birds must be kept in fully enclosed or netted outdoor areas subject to–
- (a) the outdoor area being fully enclosed with wire mesh, netting or other material which is capable of preventing ingress of wild birds;
 - (b) preventing direct contact with poultry or other captive birds on other premises
 - (c) preventing direct or indirect contact with wild birds or feathers or faecal material from wild birds;
 - (d) not placing any new structures or portable structures in areas to which wild birds may previously have had access or taking all reasonable steps to remove such contamination that may be present;
 - (e) providing feed and water under cover where wild birds cannot gain access; and
 - (f) ensuring wild birds are not attracted to the vicinity of the outdoor area, in particular to standing water or ponds.
- (4) Poultry or other captive birds must be kept in a fenced outdoor area subject to being actively managed by the keeper–
- (a) ensuring the fenced outdoor area to be used is not contaminated with feathers or faecal material from wild birds and taking all reasonable steps to remove such contamination that may be present;
 - (b) restricting access to open or standing water by fencing off and netting ponds, standing water, or waterlogged land to prevent access by poultry or other captive birds;
 - (c) preventing direct contact with poultry or other captive birds on other premises;
 - (d) providing feed and water under cover where wild birds cannot gain access;
 - (e) ensuring wild birds are not attracted to the vicinity of the outdoor area, in particular to standing water or ponds;

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- (f) taking measures to discourage wild birds, in particular gulls and wild waterfowl, from entering the fenced outdoor areas;
 - (g) removing any carcasses of wild birds from the area to which poultry or other captive birds have access; and
 - (h) regularly cleaning and disinfecting all concrete walkways, paths and similar surfaces to which poultry or other captive birds or wild birds have access.
- (5) In all cases keepers must ensure they meet the needs of their birds in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Schedule 5 – Zoos

- (1) A keeper of poultry or other captive birds kept at a zoo licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 and located within the higher risk areas, may, as an alternative to Schedule 3, take reasonable and practicable measures to prevent potential disease spread including–
- (a) isolating groups of captive birds not housed or fully enclosed in outdoor areas from all other poultry and other captive birds;
 - (b) assessing the risk of public access to captive bird enclosures;
 - (c) controlling entry to captive bird enclosures including considering limiting to essential staff;
 - (d) requiring staff and keepers to wear suitable personal protective equipment in particular if in direct contact with the captive birds;
 - (e) introducing appropriate biosecurity measures where public access may be allowed, in particular installing disinfectant mats and hand wash facilities;
 - (f) in consultation with a private veterinarian, producing robust justification for any deviation and demonstrate the zoo has measures in place to minimize any disease spread from such un-netted outdoor enclosures.

This declaration was revoked from 09.07 on Thursday 13 April 2017 and replaced with a new declaration.

Schedule 6 – Map of Higher Risk Areas (HRA) in England



The interactive map of higher risk areas is available at:

<http://www.gisdiseasemap.defra.gov.uk/intmaps/avian/map.jsp>