

Environmental Bulletin

Avian influenza (bird flu) – Jan 2025 update

This bulletin is applicable to: All Business Units

Summary

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) carries out year-round surveillance for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in dead wild birds in Great Britain. The current risk of HPAI H5 in wild birds in Great Britain is assessed as **very high** (event occurs almost certainly) this was raised from high on the 18th of December. The UK Health Security Agency advise that bird flu is primarily a disease of birds and the risk to the general public's health is very low.

What you need to know...

During our normal operations and construction activities, National Grid staff may interact with landowners who keep poultry or captive birds.

Landowners may wish to restrict access to these areas or introduce additional safeguards to reduce the risk of the infection. Particularly in areas with regional avian influenza prevention zones in the: **East Riding of Yorkshire, City of Kingston upon Hull, Norfolk and Suffolk.** [View the latest map here.](#)

[Biosecurity](#) is an essential defence against diseases such as avian influenza.

Disinfection of boots and plant/ equipment (using Defra approved products) should take place when moving between sites and land. It is of highest importance when moving into and out of areas where captive birds or poultry are housed that measures are taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

Actions you need to take...

- Ensure you are disinfecting boots and equipment with a [Defra approved product](#) such as Virkon LSP (available on Coupa) where necessary.

[Write a request](#)

Item description: *Virkon LSP Multipurpose Farm Disinfectant - 5L*

Supplier: *Joseph Gleave – Cleaning and Hygiene*

Commodity: *Chemicals [1.02.0000]*

Unit Price (as of Jan 2024): *£68.40 per 5L plus £13.00 carriage fee*

- Ensure permission is granted for access to land that houses captive birds or poultry.
- Report dead wild birds in England or Wales to [Defra](#) and then report this into [IMS](#).
- Ensure you are carrying out hand hygiene when accessing and moving between sites and land that houses captive birds or poultry.
- Take precautions to avoid coming into direct contact with wild birds. Avoid touching wild bird feathers or surfaces with droppings.
- For further support contact the [SHEC Environment & Sustainability Team](#) or your project E&S Advisor.

Reporting dead wild birds

If you find the following dead or distressed birds, you should report them on IMS and to the Defra helpline: 03459 335 577 or [online](#).



1 dead bird of prey, wild waterfowl, gull, seabird or wader



5 or more dead birds of any other species

