



## AVIAN INFLUENZA (BIRD FLU) IN UK POWER NETWORKS AREAS

### OVERVIEW

**This bulletin has been updated. The current risk of HPAI H5 in wild birds in Great Britain is assessed as very high, 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.**

Bird Flu can affect any bird but is particularly found in poultry farms and amongst seabirds around the coast.

Do not pick up or touch dead or sick wild birds.

Comply with control measures in place at farms or other premises where birds are kept.

### DETAIL

This is a reminder to all staff of the requirements of [HSS 01 137 Notifiable Animal Diseases](#) and to comply with the measures put in place for controlling the spread of animal diseases.

Control measures for poultry and captive birds are set by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

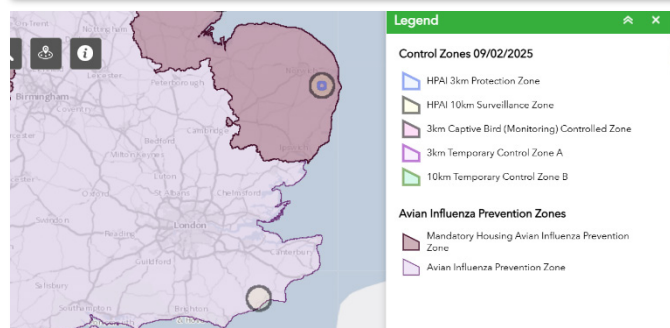
Keepers of birds must comply with the specific requirements in their area.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Check the interactive disease map to see areas currently affected.
- Do not touch dead or dying birds.
- Follow controls in HSS 01 137 and observe any notices, restrictions, and specified control measures at affected locations.
- Where necessary, use approved disinfectant (avian flu) on boots and equipment stores code **38048D**.
- It's important to maintain good hygiene when accessing and moving between sites and land that houses captive birds or poultry to prevent the spread of diseases like avian influenza (bird flu).

**An interactive map of currently affected areas can be found here:**

[APHA Interactive Avian Influenza Disease Map.](#)



Primary communication via Line Manager complete by (X)	1 week	X	2 weeks	1 month
Additional communication (X)	Learning points		1st 15	X Team Brief slide

Line management must ensure appropriate employees understand the content of this document within the timescale shown. This document is subject to compliance audits after the communication deadline.

## 10.0 Precautions When Visiting Premises with Farm Animals

### 10.1 In the Absence of an Outbreak of a Notifiable Animal Disease

Those who visit or have a right of access through premises with farm animals, for example on public footpaths or bridleways, should respect the legal boundaries and legal notices and use any facilities provided to clean mud/manure off footwear and vehicles (wheels, wheel arches, etc.).

Direct contact with animals should be avoided. Where animals are handled or touched, hands should be washed and/or sanitised as soon as practicable.

### 10.2 During an Outbreak of a Notifiable Animal Disease

Visiting premises within a Protection or Surveillance Zone with susceptible animals in the event of a disease outbreak increases the risk that the disease may be taken on to or off the livestock premises.

Every attempt must be made to contact the landowner before entry and to follow their bio-security measures. If entry is refused, employees must postpone the work and contact their supervisor.

Official footpath closure signs may appear in the area around an Infected Premises and these must be respected.

Sufficient water, disinfectant and equipment (buckets, brushes etc.) should be taken on the visit, even if facilities for disinfecting footwear, equipment or vehicles (wheels, wheel arches etc.) are thought to be available on the premises. Only disinfectants approved by DEFRA approved disinfectants may be used. These will be available from stores.

Non-essential vehicles, e.g. cars/vans, should be parked outside the premises wherever practicable. Direct contact with livestock should be avoided.

### 10.3 Premises under Specific Disease Control Restrictions (Infected Premises)

Under these circumstances only **essential visitors** should visit any premises that are subject to specific animal health disease restrictions. Unless emergency access is required work must be postponed.

A visit should be made only with the permission of a **relevant authority e.g. APHA** Regional Field Manager (RFM) or Head of Field Delivery (HoFD).

Waterproof protective clothing and waterproof boots should be worn at all times unless there is specific written dispensation from **APHA**. All other relevant measures required by any licence issued must be complied with. These may include, for example, a quarantine period during which anyone who has been to affected premises in the course of their work may not visit another premises where livestock is kept.