

## Avian Influenza Prevention Zone with additional housing measures (North Yorkshire)

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 2006<sup>1</sup> (“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 an avian influenza prevention zone with additional housing measures in those parts of England as set-out in Schedule 3 to be an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone.
3. All keepers of poultry and other captive birds must comply with the requirements of Schedule 1.
4. A keeper of poultry or other captive birds at a premises licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, may apply the measures in Schedule 2, as an alternative to complying with Schedule 1.
5. These measures apply from 20.30 on 21 November 2021 and shall remain in force until the declaration is otherwise amended or revoked by further declaration. These measures are in addition to measures to the measures in the declaration of an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone declared at 17.00 on 03 November 2021
6. This declaration is made under article 6(1)(a) and 6(4)(a) of the Order.

Signed:

Gordon Hickman

At 20.15 on 21 November 2021

Authorised by the Secretary of State

***Failure to comply with this Declaration may be an offence under section 72 or 73 of the Animal Health Act 1981.***

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, 2nd floor, Seacole Block, 2 Marsham Street, SW1P 4DF.

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<sup>1</sup> S.I. 2006/2702

## 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 (or temporary control zones or other low pathogenic restricted zones) 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.
- (2) “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.
- (3) “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.
- (4) “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.
- (5) “premises” for the purpose of this Declaration means any house, shed, aviary, range, coop, netted area, yard or open 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.
- (6) “zoo” means a zoo/aquarium or premises within the meaning of section 1(2) of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 which is operated under the authority of a licence under that Act or is subject to a dispensation, in a direction under section 14(1) of the Act, that the Act shall not apply to that zoo.
- (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 biosecurity measures for poultry and kept 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 or other captive birds 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](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu).

## **Schedule 1 – Requirement for poultry and other captive birds to be housed or otherwise kept separate from wild birds**

Any keeper of poultry (including game birds and pet birds) or other captive birds located within the zone must ensure they are kept in accordance with one or both measures set out in paragraphs (1) and (2).

- (1) Poultry or other captive birds must be kept housed in accordance with the following conditions –
  - (a) the buildings must be suitable for the purpose and it is the obligation of the keeper or such authorised person nominated by the keeper to check/inspect regularly that they continue to be;
  - (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;
  - (c) feed and bedding are kept indoors;
  - (d) measures are in place to ensure that wild birds are not attracted to areas under the control of the keeper, in particular to watercourses, reservoirs, ponds or other standing water;
  - (e) there is regular cleaning and disinfecting of all concrete walkways, paths and similar surfaces to which poultry or other captive birds or wild birds have access.
  
- (2) Where it is not possible to house birds on welfare grounds, poultry or other captive birds must be kept in fully enclosed or netted outdoor areas subject to the following conditions –
  - (a) the outdoor area being fully enclosed with wire mesh, netting or other material which is capable of preventing ingress of wild birds. Any mesh or netting which should be of a maximum size of 25mm (2(a) does not apply to poultry kept for restocking supplies of game);
  - (b) access to open or permanent standing water is restricted by fencing off and netting ponds, standing water, or waterlogged land to prevent access by poultry or other captive birds;
  - (c) there is no direct contact with poultry or other captive birds on other neighbouring premises;
  - (d) feed and bedding are kept indoors;
  - (e) feed and water are provided under cover where wild birds cannot gain access; and,
  - (f) any carcasses of wild birds are removed from the outdoor fenced range area;
  - (g) there is regular cleaning and disinfecting of all concrete walkways, paths and similar surfaces to which poultry or other captive birds or wild birds have access.
  - (h) the range area is regularly inspected to ensure it is not contaminated with feathers or faecal material from wild birds and reasonable steps are taken to remove such contamination that may be present as soon as is practicable;

- (i) before placing any new structures or enclosures on land for the purpose of keeping poultry or other captive birds outdoors, the keeper must arrange for the inspection of the relevant site for feathers and faecal matter from wild birds and, if such material is discovered, remove such material;
- (j) measures are taken to discourage wild birds (in particular gulls and wild waterfowl) from entering the outdoor range area and that wild birds are not attracted to the vicinity of the outdoor range area,
- (k) measures are in place to ensure that wild birds are not attracted to areas under the control of the keeper, in the vicinity of the outdoor area, in particular to watercourses, reservoirs, ponds or other standing water;
- (l) proactive measures (for example, bird scarers, foils, streamers) are taken to discourage wild birds, (in particular gulls and wild waterfowl), from entering the fenced outdoor areas or congregating in the vicinity of the outdoor range area, in particular to open or standing water;
- (m) there is regular inspection of the site and consideration that these conditions continue to be met, minimising the risk of contact with wild birds

In all cases keepers must ensure they meet the needs of their birds in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

## Schedule 2 – Zoos/Aquariums

- (1) A keeper of poultry or other captive birds kept at a premises licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, may, as an alternative to Schedule 1, take reasonable and practicable measures to prevent potential disease spread including–
- (a) isolating groups of other 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 indoor kept bird enclosures;
  - (c) controlling entry to outdoor kept bird enclosures including limiting to essential staff;
  - (d) requiring staff, keepers and volunteers to wear suitable personal protective equipment, in particular if they have direct contact with the birds;
  - (e) disinfectant mats must be installed at all points of entry and exit at the zoo that are for use by visiting members of the public, if members of the public are to be admitted to areas of the zoo in which poultry or other captive birds are kept,
  - (f) handwashing facilities must be made available to visiting members of the public if the public are to be admitted to areas of the zoo in which poultry or other captive birds are kept; and
  - (g) in consultation with a private veterinarian, producing robust justification for any deviation and to demonstrate the zoo/aquarium has measures in place to minimise any disease spread from such un-netted outdoor enclosures.

# Schedule 3 - Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

The Enhanced Avian Influenza Prevention Zone comprises that part of North Yorkshire contained within the red line and consisting of Hambleton District, Harrogate District and Richmondshire District.

