Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Declaration of Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (England) – mandatory biosecurity and housing measures

1. The Secretary of State has carried out a risk assessment under article 6(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No 2) Order 2006[1] as amended ("the Order").
2. To reduce the risk of the transmission of avian influenza virus to poultry and other captive birds from wild birds or any other source, the Secretary of State considers it necessary to declare, and hereby declares, the area described in **Schedule 7** to this declaration to be an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone.
3. **All keepers** of poultry or other captive birds, including pet birds, in the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone **must** comply with the minimum biosecurity measures in **Schedule 1** to this declaration (subject to paragraphs 7 and 8 below).
4. **All keepers who keep 500 or more** poultry or other captive birds, or both on premises in any part of the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone in **Schedule 8** must comply with the measures in **Schedule 1 and Schedule 2** to this declaration (subject to the following paragraph)**.** The requirements in Schedule 2 do not apply in relation to premises licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981.
5. The additional biosecurity measures in **Schedule 3** to this declaration apply in the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone to game bird farmers, game bird keepers and anyone involved in rearing, releasing or shooting game birds.
6. All keepers in the area referred to in **Schedule 9** who:
   (i) keep 50 or more poultry or other captive birds in any combination thereof; or
   (ii) keep less than 50 poultry; and
   (iii) are not licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, complying with the measures in **Schedule 5**

   must in addition comply with the measures set out in **Schedule 4** to this declaration.
7. The provisions in **Schedule 5** to this declaration apply in the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone to all poultry or other captive birds in premises licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981.
8. The provisions in **Schedule 6** to this declaration apply in the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone to all keepers of racing pigeons, doves or other columbiformes.
9. The provisions of **Schedule 7** to this declaration apply in the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone to all keepers of birds of prey or other birds trained to fly from hand or under close control in the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone**.**
10. The measures in this declaration:
    (i) apply from 00.01on 13 November 2026; and
    (ii) shall remain in force until it is amended or revoked by further declaration.

11. This declaration revokes and replaces the declaration of an avian influenza prevention zone – mandatory biosecurity measures made at 23.30 on 10 November 2026, which came into force at 09.00 on 11 November. The revocation takes effect from 00.01 on 13 November.
12. This amended declaration is made under article 6(1)(a) of the Order.

Signed:

Gordon Hickman

15.45 on 11 November 2026

Authorised by the Secretary of State

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.

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

[1] S.I. 2006/2702 (as amended)

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 in Schedule 2 of this declaration if the premises contains 500 or more poultry or other captive birds.

(2) "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;

(3) "poultry" means a bird reared or kept in captivity for purposes of—

(i) the production of meat or eggs for consumption or other poultry products;

(ii) restocking supplies of game; or

(iii) any breeding programme for the production of such categories of birds or products specified in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii);

but does not include any bird that is kept for the purposes of a single household, where the bird and its keeper have no direct or indirect contact with other poultry or poultry facilities, and the bird and products of the bird are used exclusively within, or for the purposes of the same household.

(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 but does not include a person responsible for them solely because he is transporting them

(5) "premises" for the purpose of this Declaration means any house, shed, aviary, range, coop, netted area, release pen, yard or open area which is used to keep poultry or other captive birds and includes contiguous ancillary areas such as bird feed bins, storage of bird manure and areas where birds are fed.

(6) "under cover" means an area where feed and water are placed which must be covered to prevent it being accessed or contaminated by wild birds. Placing feed on the ground or in uncovered troughs to which wild birds can gain access is not permitted.

(7) "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, to the effect that the Act shall not apply to that zoo.

(8) "anseriformes" refers to an order of birds including ducks, geese and swans.

(9) "galliformes" refers to an order of birds including turkeys, chickens, quail, partridges and pheasants

(10) "columbiformes" refers to an order birds including fancy pigeons and doves and racing pigeons

(11) "birds of prey" refers to birds including hawks, eagles, kites, ospreys, falcons and caracaras)

(12) “game bird” means any pheasant, partridge, grouse (or moor game), black (or heath) game or ptarmigan or ducks bred for shooting

(13) “private veterinarian” includes a zoo veterinarian

(14) “caught up” refers to the practice of gathering together wild game birds to be held in captivity for the purpose of restocking supplies of game or any breeding programme for the production of such birds.

(15) “live-bird part” refers to the area where live birds are kept. In the Lion code this area is referred to as the ‘specific’ area; and in Red Tractor as ‘bird biosecure areas’.

(16) “private (ancillary use) part” refers to the general area for supporting birds but not keeping them. In the Lion code this area is referred to as the ‘general’ area and in Red Tractor as ‘general biosecure areas’.

(17) Nothing in this Declaration removes obligations on keepers of poultry or other captive birds from complying with existing animal welfare requirements. Private veterinary advice should be sought by a keeper who is concerned about the suitability of housing conditions.

(18) Guidance on biosecurity measures for poultry and kept birds may be found in Animal Health Act biosecurity guidance at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bird-flu-avian-influenza-how-to-prevent-it-and-stop-it-spreading and https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bird-flu-avian-influenza-housing-your-birds-safely.

(19) Where the use of a disinfectant is required, the disinfectant must be approved under the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (England) Order 2007 (as amended) in England. It must be used at the correct concentration and allow adequate contact time.

(20) 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.

(21) Anyone who keeps poultry (including gamebirds and poultry species kept as pets) or other captive birds must register on the kept bird register. This information must be kept up to date. For further details please see: Poultry registration - GOV.UK

Schedule 1 - Minimum biosecurity measures applying to all keepers

(1) Any keeper of poultry (including game birds and pet birds) or other captive birds, irrespective of how they are kept, must take appropriate and practicable steps to ensure that–

(a) precautions are taken to avoid the direct or indirect transfer of virus contamination onto and between premises, including cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles, and footwear;

(b) all bird keepers must place foot dip containing Defra-approved poultry disinfectant at the correct dilution rate 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 disposable over- shoes or footwear should be changed when moving between bird and non-bird areas;

(c) feed, water and bedding are stored under cover, and steps are taken to prevent access by wild birds and to minimise the risk of virus contamination. Any straw used for bedding must be covered and access to it by wild birds and rodents prevented;

(d) there is no direct contact with poultry or other captive birds on neighbouring premises;

(e) effective vermin control is carried out in any part of the premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept;

(f) birds of prey are not fed anything that may have been exposed to virus, including wild waterfowl;

(g) the movement of people (other than in a zoo), 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 or movements for official or inspection visits;

(h) 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

(2) Any keeper of poultry (including game birds and pet birds) or other captive birds, irrespective of how they are kept, must keep records of poultry, captive birds (including their deaths and disposal) and egg movements and make them available to an inspector or veterinary inspector on demand. Records should include:

(a) the quantity and description (including species of bird or type of egg) transported or marketed;

(b) the date of the movement on and off the premises;

(c) the premises of destination (if known);

(d) the name and address of the person to whom ownership or possession is being or has been transferred;

(e) the name and address of the person to whom eggs or other poultry products have been sold or gifted

(f) the source premises for any live birds or hatching eggs;

(g) the name and address of the person from whom live birds or hatching eggs have been purchased;

(h) temporary moves such as a moves to a show or gathering must also be recorded. Records should include the dates of movement on and off and the location of the show or gathering;

(i) date of death and any clinical signs;

(j) date of disposal and location of relevant animal by-product disposal facility

(3) Any keeper of poultry (including game birds and pet birds) or other captive birds, irrespective of how they are kept, must take appropriate and practicable steps, that can be demonstrated to an inspector on request, to ensure that–

(a) buildings that house the birds are maintained and any defects that allow water ingress or other contamination to enter the building are rectified without undue delay.

(b) anseriformes including ducks and geese are not kept in the same pen or building as other bird species (other than in a zoo)

(4) Bird keepers must immediately notify the Animal and Plant Health Agency of:

(a) the presence of clinical signs that could be associated with avian influenza;

(b) any significant increase in daily morbidity (illness) or daily mortality (deaths), including where this increase is three times or more the normal daily morbidity or mortality rate of the flock;

(c) any significant reduction in daily egg production including where the reduction represents more than five percent (>5%) of the average daily egg production for that flock in the previous week; or

(d) any significant reduction in daily feed and/or water intake including where the reduction represents more than five percent (>5%) of the average daily feed or water intake for that flock or epidemiological unit in the previous week.

(5) The following measures apply to the movement and record keeping of wild game birds “caught up”:

(a) Wild game birds “caught up” during the open season (under the Game Act 1831) must not be moved until a minimum of 21 days from the date of catching-up has elapsed, unless the movement is—

(i) direct and licensed by a veterinary inspector or by an inspector under the direction of a veterinary inspector and which may be subject to conditions; or

(ii) within the same premises.

(b) The keeper must keep a record of the date of catching up and the number of birds caught up each day. The 21-day standstill applies from the date the last bird was caught up or the date the last bird arrives at the premises where they are to be kept.

(6) A licence under paragraph 6(a) may not be granted unless a veterinary inspector has considered:

(a) the risk of the possible spread of avian influenza if the licence were granted;

(b) the effectiveness of biosecurity at the destination to prevent contact between the birds moved and other birds; and

(c) any precautionary measures which should be taken before commencing, during or after the movement.

Schedule 2 – Enhanced biosecurity measures for premises with 500 or more poultry or other captive birds

(1) Any keeper of 500 or more poultry or other captive birds, or both must, in addition to the minimum measures set out in Schedule 1, apply the measures in paragraphs (2)-(4) of this Schedule to the following parts of the kept bird premises–

(a) a poultry/other captive bird (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/other captive bird (live-bird) part of the premises–

(a) access must be 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, including fork-lifts and pallet trolleys (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;

(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 must be limited to essential personnel only, and full biosecurity practices should be adopted on entry and exit to the part of the premises;

(b) this 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 (focusing on wheels and wheel arches) which enters or leaves the part must be cleansed and disinfected on both entry and exit.

(e) egg producers should ensure the packing, handling and storage of second quality eggs/farm seconds is managed in a biosecure manner. Plastic egg trays must be cleansed and disinfected before use and records maintained as detailed in Schedule 1 (2).

(4) The following measures apply to the restricted access (bio-secure barrier) part of the premises–

(a) access by the public must 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.

(c) keepers must regularly inspect the fabric and structural integrity of any building used to house poultry for holes and leaks, with particular emphasis on roofs, gutters and

downpipes. Any holes and leaks must be repaired without undue delay as many recent cases of avian influenza have been linked to water ingress and flooding.

(d) wild game birds must not be fed within 500 metres of the restricted access part of the premises where this area is under the control of the keeper.

Schedule 3 – Enhanced biosecurity measures for game bird premises

The following measures are applicable to game bird premises when in use

(1) Any game bird farmers, game bird keepers or managers of shoots must ensure that they and anyone under their direction involved in the rearing or releasing of game birds, in addition to the measures set out in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 (where applicable), apply the measures in this Schedule.

(2) Birds must not be put in a release pen if they show any signs suggestive of notifiable avian disease.

(3) All individuals entering a rearing or release pen must ensure that their clothing is clean when entering the pen.

(4) To minimise the spread of avian influenza between release pens and release areas, all individuals must do one or other of the following when entering and exiting each release pen:

(a) use a foot dip containing Defra-approved poultry disinfectant at the correct dilution rate. The disinfectant should be at least ankle deep and under cover to avoid dilution by rain or exposure to UV light. Disinfectant should be regularly replenished. Prior to using the foot dip, use a brush to remove any soil or organic matter from their footwear and pay particular attention to the soles and tread. The foot dip should be placed as close to the entrance as possible.

(b) use dedicated footwear when inside the release pen – leave general footwear outside the release pen and do not walk on ground outside the release pen in the dedicated footwear.

(5) Prior to entry to a premises where birds are kept, the exterior of any vehicles must be cleansed and disinfected. The exterior of vehicles that are in regular use on holdings or sites that have several release pens or premises, must be cleansed and disinfected each time they re-enter the site after leaving.

(6) The following measures apply to feeding and watering stations within release pens:

(a) there must be at least one feeding station per 60 released gamebirds to reduce gamebird density per station. For pheasants, feeders should be placed in areas they like to feed but where less attractive to wild birds;

(b) feeding and watering stations must be inspected daily and cleaned as appropriate to remove soiling with faecal matter and feathers;

(c) feeding stations must be under cover to avoid contamination from wild bird droppings. Where possible drinkers should also be covered;

(d) consider moving feeding and watering stations regularly (and at least once a week) to avoid accumulation of faecal matter and feathers;

(e) any spilled feed that could attract wild birds must be removed daily;

(f) pheasants kept in release pens should not be fed within 50 metres of a water body regularly frequented by ducks and other waterfowl;

(g) gamebirds kept in release pens should not be fed within 500 metres of any other poultry or kept birds;

(h) effective vermin control is carried out in release pens.

(7) Game birds kept in release pens must be checked daily for signs of avian influenza. Any birds showing clinical signs that are suggestive of avian influenza must receive immediate and appropriate attention, including discussing the clinical signs with a veterinary surgeon. Any suspicion of avian influenza must be reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency immediately. Further information on game bird welfare is available in the: Code of practice for the welfare of gamebirds reared for sporting purposes - GOV.UK

(8) Keepers of game birds must conduct a daily search of the area within and up to a 50 metre radius surrounding the perimeter of release pen(s) (whilst in use) or where birds are being fed and watered, for carcases of dead game birds and/or dead wild birds.

(9) Any keeper of game birds, irrespective of how they are kept, must keep records of the number of birds put in release pens, visitors and details of bird morbidity and mortalities, and movements on and off the premises, and make them available to an inspector or veterinary inspector on demand. Records should include:

(a) date (s) and number of birds put in release pens or release areas

(b) date and number of bird mortalities, including those euthanized through human dispatch

(c) date of onset of any clinical signs suggestive of avian influenza

(d) date and name of visitors to and purpose of visit (including staff) to the premises

(e) date and details of deliveries, collections and live bird movements to or from the premises (and contact details including name and phone number).

(10) (a) Any dead wild game birds (where cause of death is unknown), gulls, waterfowl or birds of prey found on game bird premises or within 50 metres of the premises or any feeding stations should be reported to Defra using the online reporting service for dead wild birds. Alternatively, dead wild birds can be reported by phone: 03459 33 55 77 (find out about call charges).

(b) Individuals should record the unique reference number as evidence that the incident has been reported. The report will be triaged and the carcases may be collected for testing. If it is not collected within 96 hours it can be assumed it is not required for Avian Influenza testing, and the carcases must be appropriately disposed of. For information on disposal of carcases, please see: Removing and disposing of dead wild birds

Schedule 4 – Requirement for poultry and other captive birds to be housed or otherwise kept separate from wild birds

(1) All keepers of

(i) a total of 50 or more birds of any kind or,

(ii) less than 50 poultry

referred to in **Schedule 9** must (subject to paragraphs 2 and 3 below) be kept housed. This must be done in accordance with the following requirements–

(a) regular inspection of the building in which birds are housed which must be suitable for the purpose of housing the birds safely and securely and keeping them separate from wild birds;

(b) any openings in the building must be covered with mesh or netting suitable to prevent ingress from wild birds, which must have a maximum hole size of 25mm x 25mm;

(c) all ventilation system inlets and outlets must be kept in a good state of repair and either (i) covered with suitably gauged mesh or netting (maximum hole size of 25mm x 25mmm) or (ii) if an active ventilation system is present, the blades must be continuously moving 24 hours a day;

(d) feed and bedding must be kept inside the building;

(e) measures must be in place to ensure that wild birds are not attracted to areas under the control of the keeper, in particular to watercourses, reservoirs, ponds and other standing water;

(f) all concrete walkways, paths and similar surfaces to which poultry or other captive birds or wild birds have access must be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

(2) Where it is not possible to house poultry or other captive birds in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Schedule on welfare grounds, the requirements of that paragraph may be disapplied, subject to the following requirements–

(a) the outdoor area must be fully enclosed with wire mesh, netting or other material which is capable of preventing ingress of wild birds. Any mesh or netting which must have a maximum hole size of 25mm x 25mm;

(b) access to open or permanent standing water must be restricted by fencing off and netting ponds, standing water, and waterlogged land;

(c) the birds must be kept isolated from wild birds in fully enclosed or netted outdoor areas;

(d) there must be no direct contact with poultry or other captive birds on neighbouring premises;

(e) feed and bedding must be kept indoors;

(f) feed and water must be provided under cover where wild birds cannot gain access;

(g) any carcases of wild birds must immediately be removed from the vicinity of the enclosed outdoor area;

(h) all concrete walkways, paths and similar surfaces to which poultry or other captive birds or wild birds have access must be regularly cleaned and disinfected;

(i) the enclosed outdoor area must be regularly inspected to ensure that it is not contaminated with feathers or faecal material from wild birds, and reasonable steps must be taken to remove such contamination that may be present as soon as is practicable;

(j) 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;

(k) measures must be taken to discourage wild birds (in particular gulls, corvids and wild waterfowl) from entering the vicinity of the enclosed outdoor area,

(l) 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 enclosed outdoor area, in particular to watercourses, reservoirs, ponds or other standing water;

(m) proactive measures (for example, bird scarers, foils, streamers) are taken to discourage wild birds, (in particular gulls and wild waterfowl), from entering or congregating in the vicinity of the enclosed outdoor area in particular near open or standing water;

(n) there is regular inspection of the site and consideration that these conditions continue to be met, minimising the risk of contact with wild birds

(3) Where a keeper of any anseriformes, ratites or poultry kept for restocking of game is not able to keep such birds in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Schedule on welfare grounds; **and** keeping them in accordance with paragraph 2 of this schedule is either (i) impractical, due to the size or terrain of the area that needs to be covered; or (ii) likely to have a negative effect on the welfare of the birds:,

(a) paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Schedule do not need to be applied in relation to such birds;

(b) appropriate biosecurity measures must be applied in relation to the birds, in consultation with a private veterinarian;

(c) within 14 days of this declaration coming into force, the keeper of the birds or the occupier of the premises where the birds are kept, must set out in writing a statement which;

(i) sets out the biosecurity measures which are being taken,

(ii) provides the name and contact details of the private veterinarian consulted, and

(iii) specifies the biosecurity measures specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Schedule which are not being taken and the reasons why they cannot be met.

(iv) is signed and dated by the keeper of the birds, or the occupier of the premises where the birds are kept

(v) must be retained for a period of a minimum of twelve months from the date of signature and made available for inspection upon request by an inspector or veterinary inspector.

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

(5) No person shall release game birds in the area described in **Schedule 9**.

Schedule 5 – Zoos/Aquariums

(1) A keeper of poultry or other captive birds kept at a premises licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 does not need to comply with the measures set out in Schedule 2 or Schedule 4 in relation to those birds if they take reasonable and practicable steps to prevent the risk of the spread of avian influenza at those premises. These must include–

(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 by limiting such entry to essential staff. Where appropriate, access may be provided to visitors, with measures in place to minimise any disease spread, but only where thorough and regularly reviewed risk assessment made in consultation with a private veterinarian produces robust justification;

(d) requiring staff, keepers and volunteers to wear suitable personal protective equipment, in particular if they have direct contact with the birds;

(e) installing disinfectant mats at all points of entry and exit to bird areas/houses 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) making handwashing facilities 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 from the measures set out in Schedule 4 and demonstrating that the zoo/aquarium has measures in place to minimise any disease spread from such un-netted outdoor enclosures.

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

Schedule 6 – Release of Racing Pigeons, Doves and other Columbiformes

(1) Schedule 1 to this declaration is subject to the following provisions, which apply to all keepers of racing pigeons, doves or other columbiformes in the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone:

(a) Keepers may temporarily let their birds out briefly before feeding each day to meet the bird's welfare requirements for up to an hour. Lofts/bird houses must not be left open for several hours for the birds to come and go as they please. Contact between the racing pigeons, doves or other columbiformes either directly or indirectly with wild birds must be minimised wherever possible.

(b) Pigeons from the same loft/pigeon house may be transported to a point some distance from the home loft/pigeon house and released/liberated and allowed to return to the loft/pigeon house as part of a training and conditioning programme. The vehicle used and baskets/boxes must be cleansed and disinfected using a government- approved disinfectant.

(c) Pigeon racing and multi-loft training are permitted whilst the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone is in force provided the gathering is notified to APHA, and the conditions of the "General licence to arrange a fair, market, show, exhibition or other gathering involving the collecting together of other captive birds" are complied with. Birds may be basketed, marked and transported to a liberation site and released to fly back to their home loft/pigeon house. The vehicle/transporter and baskets/boxes must be cleansed and disinfected using a government approved disinfectant.

(d) Pigeons, doves and other columbiformes may be transported to another location and released to fly free at functions and events provided the birds are either gathered again and returned to their home premises as soon as practical or they fly to return to their home premises. Care should be taken to avoid locations where there are large numbers of wild birds or domestic poultry.

(e) An event where birds from more than one premises are present is a **bird gathering**. Where the event is a gathering the licensee of the gathering must:

(i) meet the conditions of the general licence, including notifying to APHA; or

(ii) if a general licence is not available, obtain a specific licence and meet the conditions of that licence

Schedule 7 – Flying from hand or under close control of birds of prey and other species (excluding anseriformes and galliformes)

(1) Schedule 1 to this declaration is subject to the following provisions, which apply to all keepers of birds of prey or other species of bird trained to fly from hand or under close control in the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone:

(a) Keepers may temporarily let their birds out and fly them from hand each day to meet bird's welfare requirements for up to an hour each day. Lofts/bird houses must not be left open for the birds to come and go as they please. Contact between these birds either directly or indirectly with wild birds must be minimised wherever possible.

(b) A bird of prey used for pest control may be transported to another place some distance from the home premises, provided that place is not within a disease control zone declared under the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No.2) Order (as amended), and flown from hand for the purposes of pest control. The vehicle used and baskets/boxes/transport must be cleansed and disinfected using a government-approved disinfectant.

(f) Gatherings of birds of prey or other species of bird trained to fly from hand or under close control, are permitted whilst the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone is in force. The vehicle/transporter and baskets/boxes must be cleansed and disinfected using a government approved disinfectant.

(g) Birds of prey and other species may be transported to another location and released to fly from hand or under close control at events provided the birds are gathered again and returned to their home premises as soon as practical. Care should be taken to avoid locations where there are large numbers of wild birds or domestic poultry. An event where birds from more than one premises are present is a bird gathering.

(c) If during any free-flying from hand or under close control, visual contact with the bird is lost for more than a minute, or the bird catches another wild bird, the bird must be isolated and closely monitored for a period of 14 days before being allowed to free-fly from hand or under close control again.

(h) An event where birds from more than one premises are present is a **bird gathering**. Where the event is a gathering the licensee of the gathering must:

(i) meet the conditions of the general licence, including notifying to APHA; or

(ii) if a general licence is not available, obtain a specific licence and meet the conditions of that licence

Schedule 8 - Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone applies to the whole of England. The precise extent of the zone is as set out on the [APHA Interactive Disease Map]

Avian Influenza Prevention Zone with Mandatory Biosecurity
11 November 2026



Animal & Plant Health Agency

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Ordnance Survey AC0000815687

0 75 150 Kilometers

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

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Schedule 9 - Area within in the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone in which housing measures apply

The housing measures set out in Schedule 4 apply to the whole of England. The precise extent of this area is as set out on the [APHA Interactive Disease Map](#).

