Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Declaration of a Protection Zone and a Surveillance Zone (H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) – near Thirsk, North Yorkshire, North Yorkshire (AIV 2026/31)

1. The Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed that highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 is present in England and has taken into account the criteria set out in article 29(5) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No 2) Order 2006[1] ("the Order").
2. Pursuant to article 28(1) and article 35 (1) of the Order the Secretary of State hereby declares the area described in Annex 1 to this Declaration to be a Protection Zone in which the measures set out in Schedule 4 to the Order and the additional measure set out in paragraph 2(b) of Annex 1 apply.
3. The Secretary of State declares the area described in Annex 2 to this Declaration to be a Surveillance Zone in which the measures set out in Schedule 5 to the Order apply.
4. The Protection and Surveillance Zones are marked on the map in Annex 3.
5. These measures apply from 18.45 on 18 November 2026 until this Declaration is withdrawn or amended by further declaration.

Signed:

Gordon Hickman

18.45 on 18 November 2026

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.

Schedules to the Order are attached for ease of reference. Copies of this Declaration and of the Order are available at https://www.gov.uk/animal-disease-cases-england and from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2nd floor, Seacole Block, 2 Marsham Street, SW1P 4DF

[1] S.I. 2006/2702, as amended by 2018/1406, 2021/1472, 2022/1108, 2022/1224 and 2023/1415.

Annex 1 – Protection Zone

The Protection Zone comprises that part of England contained within the blue circle of radius 3 kilometres, centred on grid reference SE3913575909. The grid reference is to the Ordnance Survey [1:250,000 Road series]. The zone is the area within the smaller blue circle on the map in Annex 3.

The Measures in a Protection Zone

Record of visitors

1) Subject to paragraph 5, the occupier of any premises in the zone where poultry or other captive birds are kept must make records of—

(a) the name and address of any person visiting the premises (unless the visit is only to a part of the premises where people live and where no poultry or other captive birds are kept);

(b) the date of the visit;

(c) whether the person had any contact with poultry or other captive birds on the premises.

Record of poultry

2) The occupier of any premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept in the zone must—

(a) make a record of all poultry entering or leaving those premises as soon as reasonably practicable after the movement;

(b) immediately report to the Secretary of State any increased morbidity or mortality or significant drop in egg production or, where relevant, feed or water intake, or other relevant information relating to the production of eggs on the premises[2].

Record of poultry and egg movements

3) Subject to paragraph 5, any person who is engaged in the transport or marketing of poultry or poultry eggs in the zone must make a record as soon as reasonably practicable of all poultry and poultry eggs transported or marketed by him.

Poultry movements to be recorded

4) The records referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 above must include—

[2] In accordance with Article 35(1) of the Order, the measure specified in paragraph 2(b) of Annex 1 is declared as an additional measure supplementing those set out in Schedule 4 of the Order.

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

(b) in the case of a movement from premises in the zone—

(i) the date of the movement off the premises;

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

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

(c) in the case of a movement on to premises in the zone—

(i) the date of the movement;

(ii) the premises from which the movement originated (if known);

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

(d) in the case of marketing without an associated movement, the identity and address of the person to whom and the date on which ownership was transferred.

Scope of record keeping duties

5) Paragraphs 1 and 3 do not apply in respect of—

(a) a movement of eggs direct to retail premises, at or from such premises or subsequent to such a movement;

(b) the movement of people to zoos, wildlife parks or (unless required by the Secretary of State) any other premises open to the public, provided the public has no access to any area where birds are kept;

(c) the movement of the following onto any premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept—

(i) any person on a public right of way or exercising a right of access to the premises;

(ii) trespassers;

(iii) any person executing this Order.

Isolation of poultry and other captive birds

6) The occupier of premises in the zone where poultry or other captive birds are kept must ensure that they are—

(a) housed; or

(b) kept isolated (if so directed by a veterinary inspector on the basis that housing is impractical or would adversely affect the birds' welfare to a significant degree).

Measures where birds not housed

7) If birds are kept isolated but not housed, the occupier must—

(a) ensure that they have no contact with poultry or other captive birds on other premises; and

(b) take all reasonable steps to minimise their contact with wild birds, in accordance with a veterinary inspector's instructions.

Restrictions on the movement of poultry, other captive birds and mammals onto and off premises

8) (1) Subject to sub-paragraph 2), no person shall move poultry, other captive birds or mammals from or to premises in the zone where poultry or other captive birds are kept, unless the movement is licensed by a veterinary inspector or by an inspector under the direction of a veterinary inspector.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply to pet animals which—

(a) only have access to that part of the premises where people live;

(b) have no contact with poultry or other captive birds on the premises; and

(c) have no access to any cages or areas on the premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept.

Disposal of carcases

9) The occupier must ensure that all carcases not seized or disposed of by a veterinary inspector are disposed of in accordance with a veterinary inspector's instructions (unless he licenses their use for diagnosis of disease).

Biosecurity measures

10) The occupier and any person entering or leaving premises in the zone where poultry, other captive birds or eggs are kept must—

(a) take such biosecurity measures as he considers necessary to reduce the risk of the spread of avian influenza to or from the premises; and

(b) comply with any biosecurity requirements which a veterinary inspector or an inspector under the direction of a veterinary inspector, by notice to him, imposes.

Litter, poultry manure and slurry

11) No person shall remove from premises in the zone or spread used poultry litter, poultry manure or poultry slurry unless licensed by a veterinary inspector or by an inspector under the direction of a veterinary inspector.

Gatherings of poultry

12) No person shall permit any poultry or other captive birds to be collected together at any fair, market, show, exhibition or other gathering in the zone.

Release of game

13) (1) No person shall release game birds in the zone.

(2) For the purpose of this paragraph, game birds include any pheasant, partridge, grouse (or moor game), black (or heath) game or ptarmigan or ducks bred for shooting.

Restrictions on the movement of poultry, eggs, poultry meat and carcases

14) No person shall move any poultry, poultry meat, or eggs, semen, blood samples or carcases from poultry or other captive birds into, within or out of the zone unless the movement is—

(a) set out in paragraph 16 and is—

(i) direct; and

(ii) licensed by a veterinary inspector or by an inspector under the direction of a veterinary inspector;

(b) of table eggs direct to wholesale or retail premises, or subsequent to such a movement; or

(c) within the same premises.

Transport by road and rail

15) Poultry and eggs may be transported through the zone on a major highway or railway if no stop is made within the zone.

Movements which may be licensed by a veterinary inspector or by an inspector under his direction

16) The movements referred to in paragraph 14(a) are movements of the following—

(a) poultry from premises in the zone for immediate slaughter at a designated slaughterhouse (if the requirements of paragraph 17 are met);

(b) poultry meat (if the requirements of paragraph 18 are met);

(c) poultry to a designated slaughterhouse in the zone from premises outside the zone (if the requirements of paragraph 19 are met);

(d) day-old chicks hatched from eggs produced in the zone or from eggs which came into contact with such eggs (if the requirements of paragraph 20 are met);

(e) day-old chicks hatched from eggs originating outside the protection zone kept separate from eggs produced in such a zone (if the requirements of paragraph 21 are met);

(f) ready-to-lay poultry or brood-and-move poultry to premises or part of premises where no poultry are kept (if the requirements of paragraph 22 are met);

(g) hatching eggs from outside the zone to a designated hatchery in the zone or to designated premises for use for scientific, diagnostic or pharmaceutical purposes;

(h) hatching eggs from the zone—

(i) to a designated hatchery; or

(ii) to designated premises for use for scientific, diagnostic or pharmaceutical purposes (if, in both cases, the requirements of paragraph 23 are met);

(i) eggs to a designated egg packing centre (if the requirements of paragraph 24 are met);

(j) eggs to an egg processing plant;

(k) eggs for disposal;

(l) carcases for disposal or diagnosis;

(m) poultry to a veterinary surgery for treatment or return to the premises of origin following such a movement.

(n) semen to a breeding premises or to a designated premises for scientific, diagnostic or pharmaceutical purpose.

(o) blood to a laboratory or veterinary practice for scientific or diagnostic purposes.

Requirements for the movement of poultry from premises in the zone to a designated slaughterhouse

17) Poultry must not be moved to a designated slaughterhouse unless the following requirements are met—

(a) a veterinary inspector must have inspected and where necessary examined the poultry at the premises no more than 24 hours before they leave the premises; and

(b) the poultry are transported in vehicles sealed by a veterinary inspector or in accordance with his instructions;

(c) where appropriate, laboratory tests have been carried out on poultry on the premises of origin in accordance with the diagnostic manual;

(d) where the movement is within the United Kingdom, the appropriate minister responsible for the designated slaughterhouse has been informed and has agreed to receive the poultry.

17A) For the purposes of paragraph 17 “inspection” includes a visual inspection conducted remotely and under conditions where such inspection has been authorised in writing by a veterinary inspector.

Requirements for the movement of poultry meat from poultry sent to a designated slaughterhouse from premises within the zone

18) Poultry meat from poultry within the zone must not be moved from a designated slaughterhouse unless it meets the requirements of article 63(2).

Requirements for the movement of poultry to a designated slaughterhouse within the zone from premises outside the zone

19) Poultry from premises outside the zone must not be moved to a designated slaughterhouse in the zone unless the poultry are kept separate from poultry originating within the zone.

Requirements for the movement of day-old chicks hatched from eggs produced in the zone or from eggs which had contact with such eggs

20) (1) Day-old chicks hatched from eggs produced in the zone or hatched from eggs which had contact with such eggs must not be moved unless:

(a) they are transported in vehicles sealed by a veterinary inspector or in accordance with his instructions;
(b) appropriate biosecurity measures are applied during transport and at the holding of destination.

(2) The occupier of premises to which day-old chicks are transported in accordance with paragraph (1) must not move the day-old chicks from those premises for a period of 21 days following movement of the chicks onto the premises.

Requirements for the movement of day-old chicks hatched from eggs originating outside the zone

21) Day-old chicks from eggs originating outside the protection zone must not be moved unless the hatchery within the protection zone is operated in such a way that those eggs do not come into contact with eggs or day-old chicks from within the zone.

Requirements for the movement of ready-to-lay poultry and brood-and-move poultry

22) (1) Ready-to-lay poultry or brood-and-move poultry must not be moved from premises within the zone unless—

(a) poultry and other captive birds at the premises have been examined by a veterinary inspector; and

(b) the ready-to-lay poultry or brood and move poultry are transported in vehicles sealed by the veterinary inspector or in accordance with his instructions.

(2) The occupier of premises to which ready-to-lay poultry or brood-and-move poultry are moved shall not move such poultry from those premises for a period of at least 21 days from the day on which that poultry was moved onto the premises.

Requirements for the movement of hatching eggs from the zone to a designated hatchery or to designated premises for use for scientific, diagnostic or pharmaceutical purposes

23) Hatching eggs must not be moved from the zone to a designated hatchery, or to designated premises for use for scientific, diagnostic or pharmaceutical purposes unless—

(a) a veterinary inspector has confirmed that he does not suspect avian influenza in the flocks from which the eggs derive;

(b) the eggs and their packaging are disinfected before dispatch; and

(c) the eggs are transported in vehicles sealed by a veterinary inspector or in accordance with his instructions.

Requirements for the movement of eggs to an egg packing centre

24) Eggs must not be moved to a designated egg packing centre unless—

(a) they are packed in disposable packaging or packaging which is cleansed and disinfected in accordance with instructions of a veterinary inspector; and

(b) any person transporting the eggs complies with any biosecurity requirements laid down by a veterinary inspector, by notice or by licence condition.

Requirements at slaughterhouses

25) The occupier of a slaughterhouse to which poultry from the zone is sent must ensure that the requirements of article 63 are met.

Requirements for poultry meat from the zone

26) Poultry meat in the zone from poultry originating in the zone is subject to the requirements set out in article 63(3) and 63(4).

Requirements for poultry meat from outside the zone

27) Poultry meat in the zone from poultry originating outside the zone is subject to the requirements set out in article 63(3)(a).

Cleansing and disinfection of vehicles carrying any thing which may be contaminated

28) A person who moves any poultry, other captive bird, meat, feed, manure, slurry, litter or any other thing which may be contaminated must cleanse and disinfect the vehicle and any equipment used to transport that thing as soon as it is unloaded, in accordance with article 66.

Cleansing and disinfection of vehicles

29) A person who enters or leaves premises in the zone by vehicle must cleanse and disinfect any part of the vehicle which may have been contaminated without delay, in accordance with article 66.

Access to prohibited places

30) No person shall enter any place the subject of a restriction notice under article 79 of the Order, except in accordance with that notice or with article 35.

Annex2 - Surveillance Zone

The Surveillance Zone comprises that part of England on the attached map beyond the blue circle (the protection zone) and within the black circle of radius 10 kilometres, centred on grid reference SE3913575909 and as shown on the map in Annex 3. The grid reference is to the Ordnance Survey [1:250,000 Road series].

Measures in a Surveillance Zone

Record of visitors

1) Subject to paragraph 5, the occupier of any premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept must make records of—

(a) the name and address of any person visiting the premises (unless the visit is only to a part of the premises where people live and where no poultry or other captive birds are kept);

(b) the date of the visit;

(c) whether the person had any contact with poultry or other captive birds on the premises.

Record of poultry

2) The occupier of any premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept in the zone must—

(a) make a record of all poultry entering or leaving those premises as soon as reasonably practicable after the movement;

(b) immediately report to the Secretary of State any increased morbidity or mortality or significant drop in egg production or, where relevant, feed or water intake, or other relevant information relating to the production of eggs on the premises.

Record of poultry movements

3) Subject to paragraph 5, any person who is engaged in the transport or marketing of poultry or poultry eggs in the zone must, as soon as is reasonably practicable, make a record of all poultry and poultry eggs transported or marketed by him.

Poultry movements to be recorded

4) The records referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 above must include—

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

(b) in the case of a movement from premises in the zone—

(i) the date of the movement off the premises;

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

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

(c) in the case of a movement onto premises in the zone—

(i) the date of the movement;

(ii) the premises from which the movement originated (if known);

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

(d) in the case of marketing without an associated movement, the identity and address of the person to whom and the date on which ownership was transferred.

Scope of record keeping duties

5) Paragraphs 1 and 3 do not apply in respect of the movement of—

(a) eggs direct to retail premises, at or from such premise or subsequent to such a movement;

(b) people to zoos, wildlife parks or (unless required by the Secretary of State) any other premises open to the public, provided the public has no access to any area where birds are kept;

(c) the following onto any premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept—

(i) any person on a public right of way or exercising any other right of access to the premises;

(ii) trespassers;

(iii) any person executing this Order.

Restrictions on the movement of poultry, other captive birds and mammals onto and off premises

6) (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), no person shall move poultry, other captive birds or mammals from or to premises in the zone where poultry or other captive birds are kept, unless the movement is licensed by a veterinary inspector or by an inspector under the direction of a veterinary inspector.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply to pet animals which—

(a) only have access to that part of the premises where people live;

(b) have no contact with poultry or other captive birds on the premises; and

(c) have no access to any cages or areas on the premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept.

Biosecurity measures

7) The occupier and any person entering or leaving premises in the zone where poultry, other captive birds or eggs are kept must—

(a) take such biosecurity measures as he considers necessary to reduce the risk of the spread of avian influenza to or from the premises; and

(b) comply with any biosecurity requirements which a veterinary inspector or an inspector under the direction of a veterinary inspector by notice to him, imposes.

Litter, poultry manure and slurry

8) (1) No person shall remove from premises in the zone or spread used poultry litter, poultry manure or poultry slurry unless licensed by a veterinary inspector or by an inspector under the direction of a veterinary inspector.

(2) The movement of manure, with appropriate biosecurity in place, may be authorised, by a veterinary inspector, from a premises situated in the surveillance zone to a designated plant, for treatment or for intermediate storage for subsequent treatment, to mitigate against the risk of the spread of avian influenza virus.

8A) (1) Subject to paragraph (2), no person shall remove carcases of poultry or other captive birds from premises in the zone;

(2) A veterinary inspector or an inspector under the direction of a veterinary inspector may licence the removal of carcases of poultry or other captive birds for disposal or diagnosis from premises in the zone.

Gatherings of poultry

9) No person shall permit any poultry or other captive birds to be collected together at any fair, market, show, exhibition or other gathering in the zone.

Release of game

10) (1) No person shall release game birds in the zone.

(2) for the purpose of this paragraph, game birds include any pheasant, partridge, grouse (or moor game), black (or heath) game or ptarmigan or ducks bred for shooting.

Restrictions on the movement of poultry and eggs within the zone

11) (1) Subject to paragraph 12, no person shall move any poultry or eggs into or within the zone (other than through the zone by road or rail without stopping),

unless they comply with all relevant biosecurity measures laid down by a veterinary inspector in licence conditions.

(2) The occupier of premises to which poultry are moved, shall not move any of that poultry from those premises for a period of at least 21 days from the day on which that poultry was moved onto the premises.

Wholesale and retail distribution of eggs within the zone

12) Paragraph 11 does not apply to the movement of eggs direct to wholesale or retail premises, or subsequent to such a movement.

Biosecurity measures

13) A veterinary inspector must not grant a licence under paragraph 11 unless he is satisfied that the licensee will take appropriate biosecurity measures and the taking of such measures must be conditions of the licence.

Movement of poultry to a slaughterhouse

14) A veterinary inspector may license the movement of poultry from outside any avian influenza protection and surveillance zones to a slaughterhouse within the surveillance zone and subsequent movements of the meat derived from such poultry.

Restrictions on the movement of poultry and eggs out of the zone

15) (1) Subject to paragraph 16, no person shall move any poultry, or eggs, semen, blood samples or carcases from poultry or other captive birds out of the zone, unless the movement is—

(a) a movement set out in sub-paragraph (2); and

(b) licensed by a veterinary inspector or by an inspector under the direction of a veterinary inspector.

(2) The movements referred to in sub-paragraph (1) are movements of—

(a) poultry for slaughter (if the requirements of paragraph 17 are met);

(b) day-old chicks hatched from eggs originating within the protection or surveillance zone or from eggs which came into contact with such eggs (if the requirements of paragraph 18 are met);

(c) day-old chicks hatched from eggs originating outside the protection and surveillance zones kept separate from eggs produced in such a zone (if the requirements of paragraph 19 are met);

(d) ready-to-lay poultry or brood-to-move poultry to premises or a part of any premises where no poultry are kept;

(e) hatching eggs from the zone—

(i) to a designated hatchery; or

(ii) to designated premises for use for scientific, diagnostic or pharmaceutical purposes (if, in both cases, the requirements of paragraph 20 are met);

(f) eggs to a designated egg packing centre (if the requirements of paragraph 21 are met);

(g) eggs to an egg processing plant;

(h) eggs for disposal;

(i) poultry to a veterinary surgery for treatment, or return to the premises of origin on return following such a movement.

(j) semen to a breeding premises or to a designated premises for scientific, diagnostic or pharmaceutical purposes.

(k) blood samples to a laboratory or veterinary practice for scientific or diagnostic purposes.

Wholesale and retail distribution of table eggs

16) Paragraph 15 does not apply to a movement of table eggs direct to wholesale or retail premises or subsequent to such a movement.

Requirements for the movement of poultry from premises in the zone to a designated slaughterhouse

17) Poultry must not be moved from premises in the zone to a designated slaughterhouse outside the zone unless—

(a) the movement commences within 24 hours of the completion of a veterinary inspection of the poultry at the premises; and

(b) the appropriate minister responsible for the designated slaughterhouse has authorised the movement of that poultry.

(c) For the purposes of this paragraph, “inspection” includes a visual inspection conducted remotely and under conditions where such an inspection has been authorised in writing by a veterinary inspector.

Requirements for the movement of day-old chicks hatched from eggs produced within the protection or surveillance zone or from eggs which have had contact with such eggs

18) Day-old chicks from eggs produced within the protection or surveillance zone or from eggs which have had contact with such eggs must not be moved unless any

biosecurity measures laid down by a veterinary inspector by notice or licence condition are complied with.

Requirements for the movement of day-old chicks hatched from eggs originating outside the protection and surveillance zones

19) Day-old chicks from eggs originating outside any avian influenza protection and surveillance zones must not be moved unless the hatchery within the zone is operated in such a way that eggs from outside the zone do not come into contact with eggs or day-old chicks from within the zone.

Requirements for the movement of hatching eggs from the zone to a designated hatchery, or to designated premises for use for scientific, diagnostic or pharmaceutical purposes

20) Hatching eggs must not be moved from the zone to a designated hatchery or to designated premises for use for scientific, diagnostic or pharmaceutical purposes unless the eggs and their packaging are disinfected before they leave the premises.

Requirements for the movement of eggs to an egg packing centre

21) Eggs must not be moved to a designated egg packing centre unless—

(a) they are packed in disposable packaging or packaging which has been cleansed and disinfected in accordance with instructions of a veterinary inspector; and

(b) any person transporting the eggs complies with any biosecurity measures laid down by a veterinary inspector.

Cleansing and disinfection of vehicles carrying any thing which may be contaminated

22) A person who transports any poultry, other captive bird, meat, feed, manure, slurry, litter or any other thing which may be contaminated must cleanse and disinfect the vehicle and any equipment used to transport that thing as soon as it is unloaded, in accordance with article 66.

Cleansing and disinfection of vehicles

23) A person who enters or leaves premises in the zone by vehicle must cleanse and disinfect without delay any part of the vehicle which may have been contaminated, in accordance with article 66.

Annex 3 - Map showing the Protection Zone and the Surveillance Zone in England

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1,
3km Protection Zone and 10km Surveillance Zone,
Near Thirsk, North Yorkshire, North Yorkshire
18 November 2026

