



**Generic Contingency Plan  
for an Outbreak  
of a Notifiable Animal Disease**

**Annex A**

**Avian Influenza (HPAI)**

**Issue 1 – July 09**

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## 1. Introduction

This Annex only provides an outline of the local authority role in the event of a suspect or confirmed case of Avian Influenza (HPAI) within England. The plan does not relate to the low pathogenic avian influenza, which would require different controls in place. There are restrictions that would be applied if a case of low pathogenic avian influenza were confirmed. LACORS has produced a summary of LPAI restrictions, which is available on the LACORS website: <http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=16488&docType=C>

This Annex purely relates to Avian Influenza a notifiable animal disease, and therefore **does not** include information on action to be taken if Avian Influenza mutates to form transmissible between humans or to the general topic of a human influenza pandemic within the UK. Plans for such an occurrence are being developed entirely separately by the Health Protection Agency (HPA).

### 1.1 Avian Influenza

Avian Influenza is a highly infectious viral disease affecting the respiratory, digestive and/or nervous system of many species of birds. It is one of the most important poultry diseases.

The severity of disease depends upon the strain of the virus and the type of bird infected. Some strains known as 'highly pathogenic Avian Influenza' (HPAI) viruses have the potential to cause severe disease in poultry, associated with a high death rate (up to 100%). The disease can develop so rapidly that birds may die without showing any previous signs of disease.

Other strains known as 'low pathogenic avian influenza' (LPAI) viruses usually result in milder, less significant disease. However, certain LPAI viruses can mutate into highly pathogenic strains.

### 1.2 Risk of Avian Influenza Spreading to the UK

An outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) began in poultry in South Korea and has affected many countries in Asia, as well as some parts of Africa.

More recently there have been sporadic occurrences in birds in other countries around world, including some European Union Member States. There have been a number of sporadic incidents of H5N1 in both wild birds and domestic poultry in recent years in the UK. There remains a continued possibility that domestic poultry within the UK or to the native wild bird population could again be infected with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, possibly through the migration of wild birds. Therefore it is likely that there is an increased risk of introduction during the times of wild bird migration, i.e Autumn and Spring.

Contact could be direct or indirect through contamination of feed, water or objects, particularly with faeces. The Avian Influenza virus can also be introduced on contaminated clothing or objects and in addition there is a risk of infection from the illegal import of live birds. In line with EU measures, the UK has therefore banned imports from countries affected by Avian Influenza of live birds, and products that could potentially transmit the disease to other birds.

Defra carry out surveillance work on an international scale, including Qualitative Risk Assessments whenever they are officially notified of a new disease incident in or near an EU Member State. The Qualitative Risk Assessment is designed to give a balanced account of the threat to the UK of the disease incidence, taking into consideration a number of factors.

Surveillance for avian influenza viruses in domestic poultry and wild birds is part of a European initiative and is carried out in all European Member States. The UK strategy for avian influenza surveillance includes the UK wild bird survey for avian influenza viruses which involves sampling of live caught wild birds and screening of wild birds found dead. Defra also undertakes the national survey for avian influenza viruses of subtypes H5 and H7 in domestic poultry and investigates the causes of unusually high mortality events in wild birds.

### **1.3 Human Health Concerns**

Avian Influenza is primarily a disease of birds. Humans can only be infected by the disease through close contact with live infected birds.

Transmission of avian influenza viruses to people remains relatively rare and in most cases occur as a result of direct contact with infected poultry or other birds or their faeces. At present the virus cannot transfer directly from human to human.

There is concern that the virus may change (reassort or mutate) to emerge as a new virus that is transmissible between people, and capable of causing disease in people, birds and other animals.

Public health control measures in any outbreak of avian influenza amongst poultry will aim to protect people against avian influenza and also protect against the risk of genetic reassortment of the virus.

The highly pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza strain involved in most of the Asian outbreaks has shown the ability to jump the species barrier occasionally and cause severe disease, with high mortality, in humans. It has not shown the ability to move easily between humans, but this position remains under review.

## 1.4 Management of Avian Influenza

It should be noted that the legislation and processes for management of the disease are different depending on the circumstances of the outbreak, for example whether H5N1 is confirmed in poultry, other captive birds or wild birds, and whether the disease occurs at a farm, slaughterhouse or Border Inspection Post. The control zones declared by the Secretary of State, and the measures within them may also be different depending on the circumstances of the disease and throughout different stages of the disease. Local authorities are advised to carefully examine individual Declaratory Orders and relevant legislation.

## 1.5 Overview of Local Authority Role

Avian Influenza is a notifiable animal disease.

Local authorities will perform a range of essential duties in the event of an Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak. The role played by the local authority will be key to the effective control and eradication of a disease situation, and in ensuring that the needs of the local community are provided for.

The animal health and welfare enforcement function within local authorities will perform a range of key duties in the event of a confirmed case of Avian Influenza.

Local authorities are responsible for enforcing specific Avian Influenza disease control legislation. This legislation allows for the creation of controlled zones. The disease control measures which apply in these zones are enforced by local authorities. These disease control measures include restrictions on the movement of poultry, other captive birds and poultry products, separation of domestic birds from wild birds and a ban on bird gatherings.

LACORS, local authorities, Animal Health and Defra have produced a guidance note regarding the housing or isolation of captive birds during an avian influenza outbreak and advising keepers of their responsibilities.

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=18017&docType=C>

It is also likely that the local authority will play an important role in assessing the poultry population and location within the affected area. All keepers of poultry flocks with more than 50 birds are required to register with Defra on the National Poultry Register. In the event of an Avian Influenza outbreak, local authorities will work with Animal Health to utilise the information available through the National Poultry Register, and to identify flocks of less than 50 birds. Local authorities can practically assist with this need by carrying out foot patrols and utilising existing communications channels to reach their local community.

Furthermore, on an ongoing basis local authorities can proactively ensure that local records of poultry keepers are regularly maintained and reviewed.

Local authorities must ensure that all information about local poultry keepers is proactively shared with Animal Health, both during normal times and in a disease situation. Any activity to gain information about poultry in a disease situation must be effectively coordinated with Animal Health. Local authorities must also aim to provide ongoing representation at the Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC) to ensure coordination and consistency with Animal Health.

Individual local authorities may also decide to undertake specific tasks related to abandoned birds and collection of dead wild birds.

Local authorities will also play an essential role in ensuring that their communities are effectively made aware of the current situation and any restrictions upon activities, without causing any concern or panic. This role must be fulfilled through all feasible avenues, but particularly the animal health and welfare, emergency planning and communications functions.

## **2. Epidemiology**

### **2.1 Definition**

Avian Influenza is a highly contagious viral disease affecting the respiratory, digestive and/or nervous system of many species of birds.

All bird species are thought to be susceptible to Avian Influenza. Migratory birds such as wild ducks and geese can carry the viruses, often without symptoms of illness, and show the greatest resistance to infection. Domestic poultry flocks, however, are particularly vulnerable to epidemics of a rapid, severe and fatal form of the disease.

Avian Influenza viruses can be classified according to their ability to cause severe disease (pathogenicity) as either highly pathogenic or low pathogenic. Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza viruses (HPAI) can cause severe disease in susceptible birds, and low pathogenic Avian Influenza viruses (LPAI) generally caused mild disease or no disease at all.

Avian Influenza is a contagious disease of birds caused by Influenza A viruses. Influenza A viruses have the ability to cross the species barrier and infect people, birds and animals such as pigs and horses. However, currently humans can only be infected by the disease through close contact with live infected birds. There is no firm evidence that the most virulent forms of Avian Influenza are able to pass easily from person to person.

### **2.2 Transmission**

Avian Influenza can be transmitted through various key methods -

- Direct contact with secretions from infected birds, especially faeces
- Contaminated feed, water, equipment and clothing
- Clinically normal waterfowl and sea birds may introduce the virus into flocks.
- Broken contaminated eggs may infect chicks in the incubator.

### **2.3 Clinical Signs**

The severity depends upon the strain of virus and the type of bird infected. Birds infected with HPAI and LPAI may die suddenly or show a range of clinical signs and the severity of the disease may vary considerably. However some birds can be infected with LPAI or HPAI without showing any signs of the disease.

Individual birds with HPAI may show the following symptoms -

- Nervous signs (tremors & in-coordination)
- Depression, sneezing & coughing

- Swollen, congested & oedematous wattles
- Haemorrhages on the hock (lower part of leg)
- Diarrhoea

In the flock symptoms of HPAI can be -

- Unusual quietness, decreased activity levels
- Decreased levels of vocalisation.
- Decreased levels of feed & water consumption
- Decreased egg production
- It is important to note that when infection is due to a highly pathogenic form of avian influenza, the onset of clinical signs is sudden, severe, short lasting and mortality is extremely high sometimes 100%

### 2.3.1 Clinical Signs - Pictures

Figure 2.1- Congested comb & wattles in a bird with Avian Influenza





Figure 2.2 – Ruffled feathers and depression in a broiler with avian influenza



Figure 2.3 – Swelling & oedema in the head and upper neck of a broiler with avian influenza



Figure 2.4 - Depression in a layer with avian influenza, note the alertness of the other birds not displaying symptoms yet



Figure 2.5 – Bruising or haemorrhage on the hocks of a broiler with Avian Influenza



## **2.4 Main Aspects of Disease Control**

This summary relates to where avian influenza is found in captive poultry/birds. The control mechanisms are slightly different where the virus is present only in wild birds.

### **i) Infected Premises**

Restrictions will be imposed on the movement of animals, litter and vehicles into or out of the infected place. Cleansing and disinfection of premises and vehicles will be required. Schedule 3 of the Animal Health Act 1981 provides for the compulsory slaughter of diseased poultry and poultry which is suspected of being infected or which has been exposed to the infection of disease. Eggs must also be destroyed.

### **ii) Infected Area**

Restrictions applied to poultry/captive birds and hatching eggs within a 3km (Protection Zone) and 10km (Surveillance Zone) radius of the infected premises.

- Poultry/captive birds must be kept in their living quarters in the PZ and may be required to in other controlled zones.
- Markets, fairs, shows and any other gathering of poultry/captive birds will be prohibited.
- There will be controls on the movement of poultry, birds, eggs poultry meat, products and by-products.
- Vehicles used for the conveyance of poultry carcasses, poultry offal, feathers or eggs which may be contaminated plus other vehicles which may have become contaminated must be cleansed and disinfected.

Additional controlled zones with other control mechanisms may be declared. In particular if H5N1 is confirmed in poultry an additional Restricted Zone will be declared, typically encompassing the remainder of the country in question.

### **iii) Minimum Duration of Controls**

An infected premises may not be restocked until at least 21 days after disinfection. Protection Zone controls apply for at least 21 days after the preliminary cleansing and disinfection of the infected premises and then become part of the Surveillance Zone. Surveillance Zone controls apply for at least 30 days after preliminary cleansing and disinfection.

### **3. Legislation**

The overarching requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the Animal Health Act 1981 as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002 and the European Communities Act 1972, are detailed in the Generic Plan. **The legislative information provided within this Annex relates specifically to Avian Influenza.**

#### **Animal Health Act 1981 as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002, the Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease (England & Wales) Order 2003 and the Diseases of Poultry (England) Order 2003**

The Animal Health Act 1981 provides powers for the control of outbreaks of Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease. It was amended in 2002 to provide more powers to deal with foot and mouth disease and these powers were extended by the Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease (England & Wales) Order in 2003, so that they are now exercisable in relation to Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease.

The Act as amended provides for the slaughter of diseased poultry, poultry suspected of disease, poultry exposed to disease and poultry which the Secretary of State thinks should be slaughtered to prevent the spread of disease (a 'firebreak' cull).

The Diseases of Poultry (England) Order 2003 introduced a number of key amendments to the Animal Health Act. The definition of poultry within section 87(4) of the Animal Health Act was amended to include all birds (including those in captivity), and the definition of disease in section 88(3) was extended to include all diseases of birds.

#### **The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No. 2) Order 2006**

The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No. 2) Order 2006 enacts the requirements of EU Directive 2005/94/EC on Community measures for the control of avian influenza. The Order is enforced by local authorities.

The Order allows for a flexible and risk based approach to disease control which will enable industry to continue to operate in a safe and biosecure manner.

The Order contains preventive measures such as:

- Power for the Secretary of State to declare an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone.
- Ban or limitation of bird gatherings.



- Separation of birds from wild birds.
- Surveillance for avian influenza.

The Order includes a range of provisions for application in cases of suspected and confirmed, high pathogenic (and low pathogenic) avian influenza. The measures will not all be applicable in all areas in all situations. The measures include:

- Notification of suspicion of avian influenza in captive birds in any premises.
- Imposition of movement controls, including on suspicion of disease and on confirmation of low pathogenic virus.
- Entry to premises for the purposes of veterinary inquiry.
- Where high pathogenic avian influenza is confirmed, the imposition of a Protection Zone (minimum 3km) and a Surveillance Zone (minimum 10km) around the infected premises.
- Where high pathogenic avian influenza is confirmed the Secretary of State may also declare a Restricted Zone, of a size deemed to be appropriate.
- Ban on bird gatherings
- Separation of domestic birds and poultry from wild birds
- Requirement for poultry keepers to keep records.
- Tracing of meat and eggs.
- Elimination of the disease, including low pathogenic virus, by slaughter of infected and contact animals.
- Cleansing and disinfection of buildings used to house infected poultry. Cleansing and disinfection of vehicles used for transport and all equipment, likely to be contaminated.

A summary of all the different zones that can be applied under the three main Avian Influenza control Orders can be found on the LACORS website:  
<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=15944&docType=C>

### **The Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Poultry) (England) Order 2006**

In the event that avian influenza H5N1 is found in poultry this provides for specific requirements in addition to those in the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No. 2) Order.

The Secretary of State must declare a further controlled zone, termed a Restricted Zone (RZ). This can be centred on the outbreak point, or adjacent to

the surveillance zone or another Restricted Zone. The measures that apply in the RZ include:

- Ban on bird gatherings
- Restrictions on movement of poultry and other captive birds
- Restrictions on movement of hatching eggs
- Restrictions on movement of wild game bird products
- Requirement for marking of wild game bird meat and meat products
- Duties to ensure that wild game meat from a PZ, SZ or RZ is obtained cut, transported and stored separately from other meat
- Restrictions on movement of bird by-products
- Record keeping of bird movements
- Other measures as the Secretary of State deems necessary, for example separation of captive birds and poultry from wild birds.

#### **The Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (England) Order 2006**

The Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (England) Order 2006 provides controls in the event that avian influenza H5N1 is found in wild birds.

The Secretary of State must declare:

- A Wild Bird Control Area, which must be centred on the point where the wild bird or carcase was found, and have an outer boundary of at least 3km from this point
- And a Wild Bird Monitoring Area, which must be centred on the point where the wild bird or carcase was found, and have an outer boundary of at least 10km from this point

The size of these areas can be altered subject to specific requirements and a risk assessment.

Measures that apply in a Wild Bird Control Area include:

- Restrictions on movement of poultry or other captive birds from premises
- Restriction of movements from premises that have received poultry
- Poultry moved to a slaughterhouse must be slaughtered without delay
- Prohibition on movement of poultry and other captive birds through the area, unless it transits non-stop through the area

- Restrictions on movement of hatching eggs, SPF eggs, controlled meat, bird by-products and poultry manure
- Requirements for marking of meat

Measures that apply in a Wild Bird Monitoring Area include:

- Restrictions on movement of poultry or other captive birds from premises
- Restriction of movements from premises that have received poultry
- Poultry moved to a slaughterhouse must be slaughtered without delay

Bird gatherings and release of wild game birds is prohibited in both Areas. Hunting of birds can only take place under a licence.

In both Areas, occupiers of premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept must provide means of disinfection at entrances and exits to the premises, and buildings where poultry or birds are housed. Persons entering or leaving such premises must not wear dirty clothing. Vehicles entering or leaving must also be cleansed and disinfected.

The Secretary of State can apply additional measures within the areas, such as the requirement to separate captive birds and poultry from wild birds, and for keepers of birds to cleanse and disinfect footwear.

Within the two areas, premises where poultry are kept must be identified, and a veterinary inspector must visit all premises where poultry are kept within the Wild Bird Control Area.

### **The Avian Influenza (Vaccination) (England) Regulations 2006**

The Avian Influenza (Vaccination) (England) Regulations 2006 also implement provisions contained in EU Council Directive 2005/94/EC.

The Regulations prohibit vaccination, but allow the Secretary of State to declare an Emergency Vaccination Zone or a Preventive Vaccination Zone. The Secretary of State can also serve an Emergency Vaccination Notice on an individual premises. Within the zones, or on an individual premises the Secretary of State can require the vaccination of poultry and other captive birds. Movement restrictions will apply within the zones.

### **Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (England) Regulations 2006**

Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (England) Regulations 2006 provides powers to ban fairs, markets, shows or other gatherings of poultry or birds. In practical terms bird gatherings have been permitted to take place under a general licence, but the organiser must notify the local Animal Health Office that they are going to happen. The position in relation to bird gatherings will remain under continual review, in consideration of the wider risk.

The Avian Influenza (Preventative Measures) (No 2) Regulations 2005 introduced an initial requirement for all keepers of poultry flocks of more than 50 birds to register with Defra. This information has been utilised to produce the National Poultry Register for Great Britain. These Regulations have since been superseded by the Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (England) Regulations 2006 which provide an on-going requirement for keepers of poultry flocks of over 50 to register.

These Regulations also restrict the vaccination of birds in zoos. The Secretary of State can require that vaccination of birds in zoos is carried out. Certain measures apply to vaccinated birds in zoos and the Secretary of State can require surveillance at these zoos.

### **Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease (Contingency Planning) (England) Order 2003**

The Order provides for the preparation of a national contingency plan indicating the arrangements to be put in place for the control and eradication of Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease. The national contingency plans for these diseases must be issued on an annual basis for public consultation, and issued to parliament.



## **4. Wider Stakeholders – Avian Influenza**

All key stakeholders and wider stakeholders that are relevant to all notifiable animal health diseases are listed within the generic contingency plan. This section only outlines the limited number of wider stakeholders that may be of relevance during an outbreak of Avian Influenza.

The poultry industry works at a variety of levels and there are a wide range of businesses and individuals that keep various species of poultry. Unfortunately there are limited details of small scale keepers at a national or local level. It is therefore essential that local authorities proactively review this section with the intention of ensuring that local stakeholders, representative bodies and poultry keepers are identified in advance of an outbreak of Avian Influenza.

### **British Poultry Council**

[www.poultry.uk.com](http://www.poultry.uk.com)

The British Poultry Council is a voluntary trade association. Membership of the British Poultry Council includes companies and individuals engaged in breeding, hatching, rearing and processing chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese to produce poultry meat.

### **Assured Chicken Production**

[www.assuredchicken.org.uk](http://www.assuredchicken.org.uk)

Assured Chicken Production (ACP) is a farm assurance scheme that aims to set standards for the nutrition and welfare of poultry and to verify producers compliance with them. The ACP scheme covers Breeder Replacement, Breeder Layers, Hatchery Chickens, Free Range, Poussin, Catching, Transport & Slaughter

### **The Royal Pigeon Racing Association**

[www.rpra.org.uk](http://www.rpra.org.uk)

The Royal Pigeon Racing Association may provide appropriate information about its members in the event of an Avian Influenza outbreak or contact them directly with any relevant information. Their website contains national and regional contacts.

### **Local Representative Associations and Clubs**

Local authorities should also ensure that relevant local representative bodies are proactively identified, and contact details included within this annex. Key areas that should be reviewed include **smallholders associations** and **local poultry clubs**.

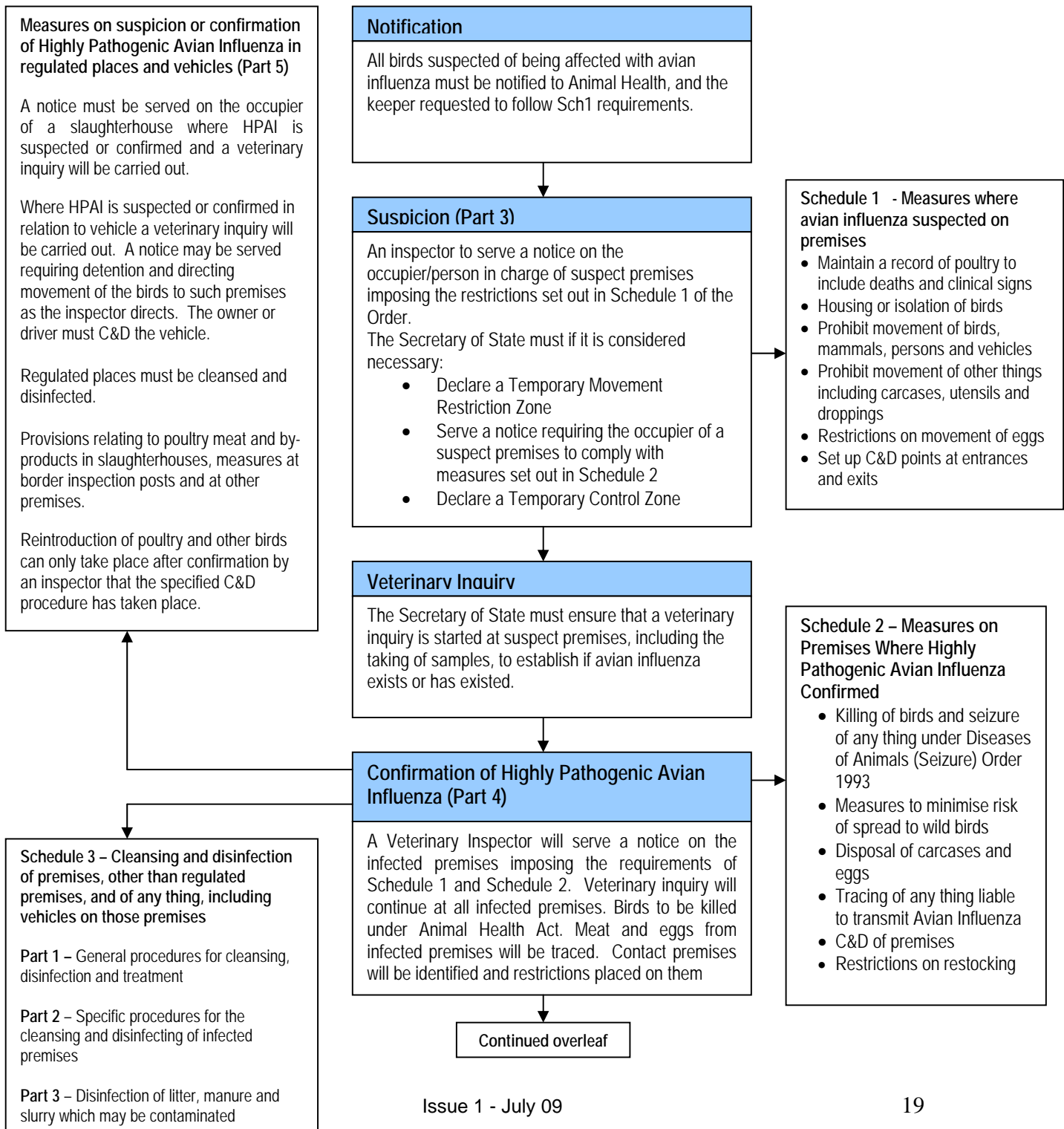
The majority of areas will have their own smallholders association, and contact details can frequently be located on the internet. Local poultry clubs may not advertise extensively, and knowledge of such clubs will usually be through direct contact, however representatives from the smallholders association may have knowledge of such local clubs.

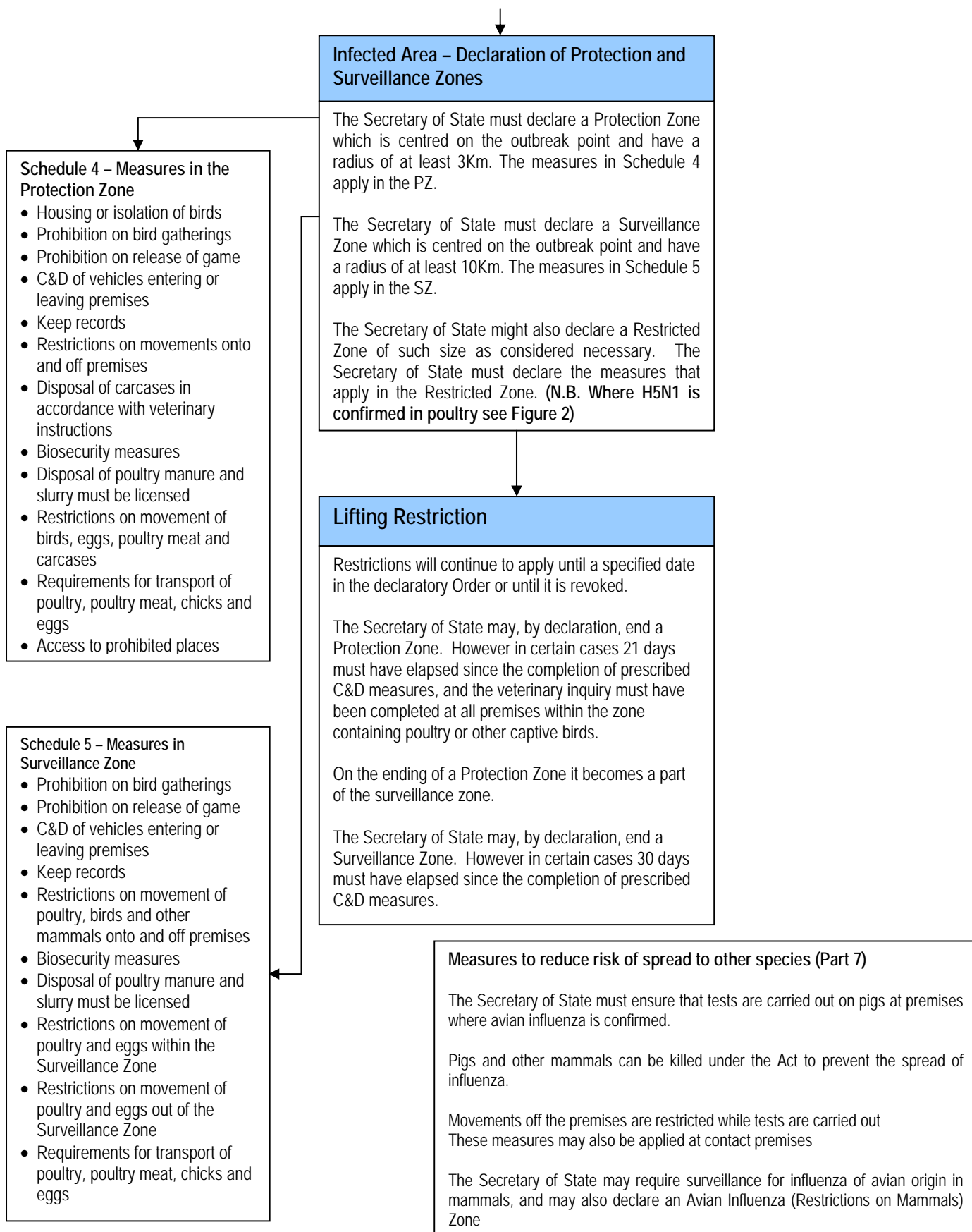
Local authorities should also regularly review the '**Fur and Feather**' press for wider awareness of the poultry industry in their area. Local authorities should specifically consider and retain details of any fur and feather sales operating in their area, any unknown keepers and details of local representative bodies and clubs.

## 5. Overview of Disease Stages and Controls

**Figure 5.1**

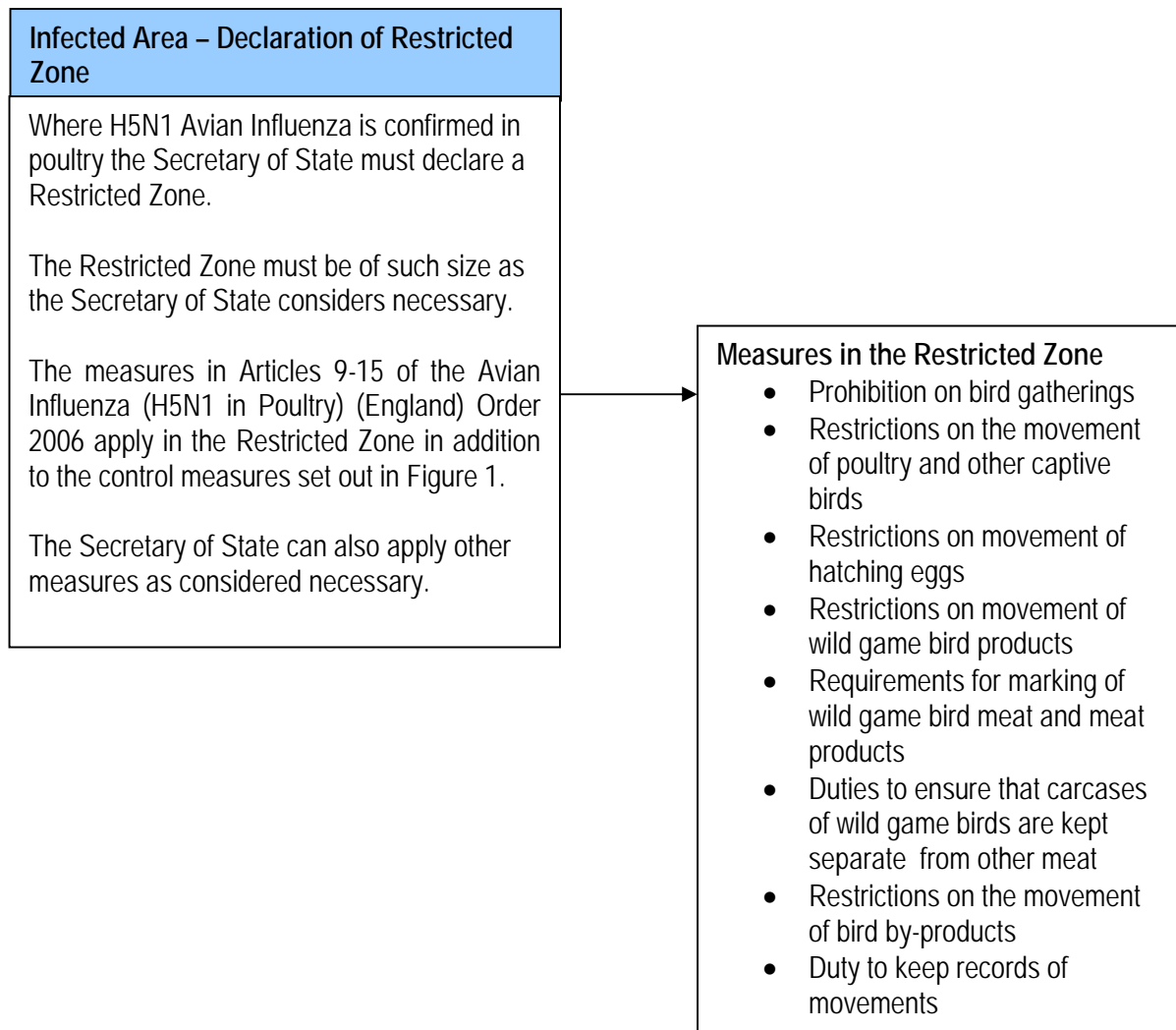
The following diagram summarises the various stages of an avian influenza outbreak, and the restrictions that would be applied under The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No. 2) Order 2006.





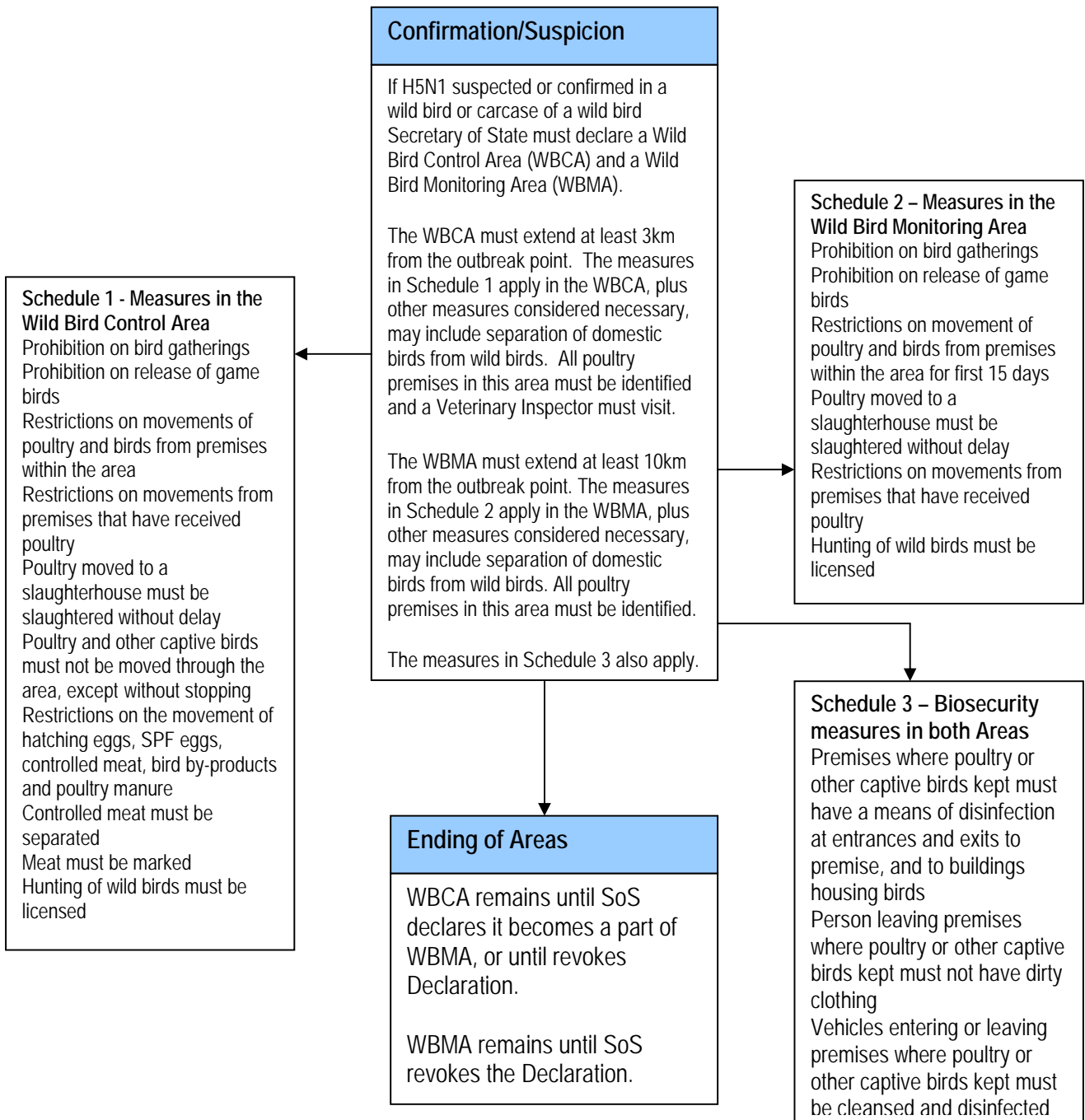
### Figure 5.2

The following diagram summarises the controls and restrictions that would be applied under The Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Poultry) (England) Order 2006 in addition to those detailed in Figure 5.1.



**Figure 5.3**

The following diagram summarises the controls and restrictions that would be applied under The Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (England) Order 2006.



## **6. Plan Implementation – Local Authority Functions and Responsibilities**

**The details provided below must be utilised in conjunction with the Isle of Wight Council Generic Contingency Plan for an Outbreak of a Notifiable Animal Disease.**

**This Annex only contains information that is applicable during an outbreak of Avian Influenza.**

### **6.1 Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Function– Avian Influenza**

The Generic Plan includes an overview of each key local authority function throughout a disease outbreak, including job specifications which remain the same for all types of notifiable animal disease.

However, the duties performed by the Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Inspector will change in consideration of legislative requirements that are unique to each disease.

The paragraphs below aim to provide further details about the activities to be carried out by an Animal Health and Welfare Inspector during an outbreak of Avian Influenza.

#### **6.1.1 Key Considerations – Avian Influenza**

The key considerations for all local authority functions during an outbreak of Avian Influenza will be:

- Effective communication with local communities and poultry industry
- Determining if have sufficient capacity and resources
- Controlling media interest
- Managing fears and risks to human health
- Establishing strong liaison/communication links with Animal Health
- Maintaining list of poultry keepers
- Door to door visits as necessary
- Attending LDCC meetings
- Erecting signs

Local authorities must remain aware that there will be immediate extensive interest in any suspect and confirmed cases of Avian Influenza. Local authorities should consider that this interest will predominantly be generated by possible links between Avian Influenza and human health, and therefore it is essential that local authorities provide accurate information at all times, and aim to prevent widespread panic.

At the Initiation and Activation stage of an Avian Influenza disease outbreak, the first steps in starting an effective communication process will be for the local authority Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Function to evaluate the information held on poultry keepers in that area and ensure it is as up to date as possible. This should be done in conjunction with Animal Health.

### **6.1.2 Management and Control – Avian Influenza**

During an Avian Influenza outbreak local authorities will specifically be required to work with Animal Health to facilitate the identification of all poultry premises, though the emphasis is likely be on confirming the presence of flocks under 50.

The work to identify such premises **must** be coordinated effectively with Animal Health, to prevent duplication of effort. Discussions must be held at a local level with Animal Health, who are likely to have a recording system for this work. Local authorities must ensure that all information relating to newly identified poultry flocks is proactively fed into Animal Health and local records.

Where Animal Health does not provide a form, local authorities should utilise the 'Door to Door Enquiry Form' located in Section 8 of this annex when gathering information relating to poultry flocks. Guidance leaflets for dissemination to both poultry owners and members of the public will prove useful and could be distributed at the same time. The circumstances in each different controlled zone will vary and could vary depending on the nature of each individual outbreak. Further information on drafting guidance leaflets is available Section 8 of this document.

Animal Health will take the lead in visiting all suspect premises and any dangerous contact premises that have been identified. Local authorities should not knowingly enter premises with confirmed or suspect Avian Influenza.

The role of local authority Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Inspectors may have to be reviewed if an outbreak of Avian Influenza became widespread, and the veterinary resource could no longer cope with the full range of demands upon their time.

### **6.1.3 Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Inspector Job Specification – Avian Influenza**

The information below must be viewed in conjunction with the Generic Plan.

The job description below aims to provide further details about the activities to be carried out by an Animal Health and Welfare Inspector that are unique to an outbreak of Avian Influenza (HPAI).



<b>Key Responsibilities - Including Specific Avian Influenza Information</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Enforcement of Animal Health and Welfare Legislation</b></p> <p>This specifically relates to the enforcement of The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No. 2) Order 2006 (in particular Schedules 4 and 5), the Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Poultry) (England) Order 2006 and the Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (England) Order 2006.</p> <p>Specific requirements would include enforcing a ban on bird gatherings, and the record keeping requirements. However, as with all legislative requirements the approach to enforcement will need to be judged on risk and local circumstances.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Erection of Road Signs</b></p> <p>Article 79 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No. 2) Order 2006 places duties on the local authority in relation to erection of signs. In summary, the boundaries of controlled zones must be indicated on roads where poultry are likely to travel. Note that the situation is slightly different for Restrictions on Mammals Zones. Further, if the Secretary of State declares restrictions on the movement of persons onto premises then the local authority will be responsible for erecting notices at the entrance to premises, on public or private rights of way and at any other appropriate locations.</p> <p>Local authorities will also need to liaise with Animal Health with regards to erecting signs where footpaths and rights of way cross Suspect/Infected Premises.</p> <p>LACORS has produced further guidance on the erection of signs, <a href="http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=15694&amp;docType=C">http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=15694&amp;docType=C</a></p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Enforcement of Movement Restrictions</b></p> <p>Local authorities are responsible for monitoring and enforcing the restrictions contained in the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No. 2) Order 2006, the Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Poultry) (England) Order 2006 and the Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (England) Order 2006. The prohibited and licensable movements are extensive and relate to live poultry, other birds, mammals (in certain specific cases), eggs, carcasses, poultry meat and meat products and by-products such as litter and manure.</p> <p>The approach taken to the enforcement of movement restrictions will depend considerably upon the extent of the disease situation, the local poultry population and the range of premises / businesses involved. Local authorities must work in partnership with the LDCC, in particular Animal Health and the local police force, to review priorities and resource requirements.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Separation from Wild Birds</b></p> <p>The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No. 2) Order 2006 contains requirements to house or otherwise separate poultry and</p>

	<p>other captive birds from wild birds on suspect and infected premises and all premises where birds are kept within the <b>Protection Zone</b>:  Paragraph 2, Schedule 1 – Requirement to house or separate from wild birds on a suspect premises  Paragraph 2, Schedule 2 – Requirement to reduce the risk to wild birds on an Infected Premises  Paragraphs 6 and 7, Schedule 4 – Requirements to house, otherwise isolate, and reduce risk to wild birds on premises in the Protection Zone. Although the housing requirements set out in the Declaration may vary.</p> <p>It is likely that the Secretary of State will introduce such requirements in other zones, including in a Wild Bird Control Area or a Wild Bird Monitoring Area.</p> <p>Local authorities will be responsible for enforcing this requirement, and will need to work with Animal Health to ensure that this is complied with. This is likely to involve foot patrols and responding to intelligence. Local authorities will need to reach agreement with Animal Health on the provision and recording of consistent advice for keepers on housing their birds and any exceptions to be allowed. A joint guidance note on this is available on the LACORS website:  <a href="http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=18017&amp;docType=C">http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=18017&amp;docType=C</a></p> <p>Defra has also issued guidance on separation of domestic birds from wild birds:  <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/pdf/separating.pdf">http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/pdf/separating.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Intelligence Gathering</b>  Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Inspectors will need to work with Animal Health to proactively gather comprehensive information about all poultry kept within the zones. The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No. 2) Order 2006 contains a requirement for the Secretary of State to identify all premises containing poultry and other captive birds within the Protection Zone (Article 30(4)), and to identify all commercial poultry premises within the Surveillance Zone (Article 31(4)). The Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (England) Order 2006 contains a requirement for the Secretary of State to identify premises where poultry are kept within the Wild Bird Control Area and the Wild Bird Monitoring Area (Article 11).</p> <p>The Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (England) Regulations 2006 places an on-going requirement for owners or keepers of commercial poultry flocks with over 50 birds to register with the National Poultry Register. There is also an option for owners of poultry flocks of less than fifty birds to register on a voluntary basis. Animal Health will provide local authorities with the latest version of the Register.</p> <p>Local authorities may be required to work with Animal Health to identify premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept. This work must be heavily coordinated with Animal Health, and any results shared with them. Animal Health and local authorities must decide which body is going to concentrate on</p>

	<p>identifying which premises, and in which zones. This work will be prioritised and resources allocated as appropriate.</p> <p>Depending upon the area, it is likely to require extensive door-to-door survey work by local authority Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Inspectors. Where Animal Health does not provide a form, local authorities should utilise the door-to-door enquiry form available in Section 8 of this annex, and use the opportunity to disseminate relevant advice and information.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Monitoring Cleansing and Disinfection Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local authority enforcement Inspectors are responsible for enforcing the cleansing and disinfection requirements contained in the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No. 2) Order 2006.</li> </ul> <p>Schedule 3 of the Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (England) Order 2006 also contains biosecurity requirements. These apply at premises in a Wild Bird Control Area and a Wild Bird Monitoring Area where poultry or other birds are kept, and include the requirement for the occupier to provide means of disinfection at entrances to the premises, and to buildings where birds are kept.</p> <p>Specific information on cleansing and disinfection procedures and requirements are contained in Article 66 and Schedule 3 to the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No. 2) Order 2006.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Dealing with Abandoned Birds</b></p> <p>Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Inspectors and Animal Health will need to manage incidents of abandoned birds.</p> <p>The approach taken will depend on the circumstances at the time. Possible options might include culling, or working with animal welfare charities to collect abandoned birds.</p> <p>All local authorities involved should agree in conjunction with Animal Health, a common approach at the time. In the event of a widespread incident LACORS would seek to obtain guidance on a common approach from Defra.</p>

## **6.2 Other Local Authority Services – Avian Influenza**

The Generic Plan includes an overview of each key local authority function throughout a notifiable disease outbreak, including animal health and welfare enforcement, highways and footpaths, communications and emergency planning. The outline for each function also includes job specifications.

All local authority representatives and key services must remain aware that accurate and timely communication with their local community is essential during an outbreak of Avian Influenza. This approach will ensure that appropriate preventative measures are taken to control the situation and prevent unnecessary panic.

### **6.2.1 Stand Down and Recovery – Avian Influenza**

The Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Function within local authorities should follow the stand down and recovery procedures laid down within the Generic Plan.

## 7. Health and Safety of Local Authority Staff

Local authorities should proactively complete their standard health and safety risk assessment to review staff activities in relation to each notifiable animal disease and then add this to the local version of the relevant contingency plan. Full guidance on the various areas to consider when completing local health and safety risk assessment templates is available within the Generic Plan.

Specific information on the health and safety risks associated with Avian Influenza has been included within this Annex due to the high level of concern in this area.

**Local authorities are advised to seek specific guidance from their Health and Safety advisor or medical practitioner when completing their local health and safety risk assessments.**

Further information relating to the health and safety risks can also be found on the following websites –

Health Protection Agency

[http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics\\_az/avianinfluenza/menu.htm](http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/avianinfluenza/menu.htm)

The Department of Health

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/index.htm>

The Health and Safety Executive

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/>

### 7.1 Health Risks

Transmission of Avian Influenza viruses to people remains relatively rare and in most cases occurs as a result of direct contact with infected poultry or other birds or their faeces. Faecal material can contaminate dust, soil, water, feed, equipment and clothing and feathers. Transmission to people only occurs with certain strains of Avian Influenza.

Information about the current outbreaks of avian flu is available on the World Health Organisation website at:

[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/)

The Avian Influenza virus has two significant implications for human health:

- the severity of illness following infection; and
- the potential for adaptation of the avian influenza virus into a strain, that both causes severe disease in humans and spreads easily from person to person, or its transformation, through exchange of genes with a human flu

virus, into a completely novel virus capable of spreading easily between people and causing severe illness on a pandemic scale.

Public health control measures in any outbreak of avian influenza in poultry in this country will therefore aim to protect people against avian influenza and also protect against the risk of genetic re-assortment of the virus.

## **7.2 Clinical Signs in Humans**

Symptoms of avian flu in people range from mild conjunctivitis to typical flu-like illness, which can lead to acute respiratory illness, viral pneumonia and can be fatal. Infection with avian influenza virus A/H5N1 has been characterised by sudden onset with cough and fever and high fever.

## **7.3 General Advice for Local Authority Staff**

### **Local authority staff should not enter premises with known suspect or confirmed cases of Avian Influenza.**

Animal Health will take primary responsibility for visiting infected and suspect premises. This responsibility includes supervising the humane slaughter of infected birds, and the cleansing and disinfection of infected premises. Animal Health will also be responsible for visiting direct contact premises, or suspect premises as result of tracings.

If an outbreak of Avian Influenza became widespread and veterinary resource became limited, then this position may need to be reviewed.

## **7.4 Measures to Reduce Risk and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

General information on bio security measures and best practice is available within the Generic Plan. Bio security best practice should be followed during visits to all premises.

If exposure of local authority officers to a contaminated environment is necessary, PPE **must be worn**. This will include suitable and appropriate Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) and eye protection. Local authorities should ensure that the Health Protection Agency or Health and Safety Executive are contacted to provide comprehensive advice on the PPE standards required.

## **7.5 Medical Intervention**

Local authorities should seek specific medical advice on the measures that can be taken where staff are at risk from exposure to the Avian Influenza virus. The position should be reviewed regularly in the event of a disease situation.

Local authority staff that have definitely been exposed to Avian Influenza must seek medical advice immediately.

The Department of Health is currently offering seasonal human flu vaccine to those who work in close contact with poultry. However this may change dependent on the situation. Further information is available on the DoH website at:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/Flu/fs/en>

In the event of a confirmed or suspected case of H5N1, the local Health Protection Unit will oversee administration of prophylaxis to farm workers and residents at the affected premises, Animal Health staff attending the premises and poultry cullers.

There is currently no specific vaccine for the prevention of Avian Influenza in people, though one is being developed.

There is however good evidence that avian flu viruses respond to antiviral drugs, and in the UK oseltamivir (Tamiflu®), or other appropriate antiviral agent could be used for the treatment and prevention of avian flu in people.

## 8. Useful Information and Advice

### 8.1 Avian Influenza Door-to-Door Enquiry

<b>Contact Name at Premises:</b>
<b>Premises Address:</b>
<b>CPH Reference (If applicable):</b>
<b>Contact Telephone Number:</b>

<b>Species of bird</b>	<b>Number kept</b>	<b>Kept outdoors / indoors</b>
Domestic fowl		
Turkeys		
Geese		
Ducks		
Guinea Fowl		
Quails		
Pigeons		
Ratites		
Pheasants		
Partridges		
Other (parrots, canaries etc.)		

<b>Any recent deaths / signs of illness? Y / N</b> <b>Details:</b>
<b>Any movements of poultry onto or off premises in previous 56 days? Y / N</b> <b>Details:</b>
<b>Are you aware of any other keepers of birds within the Protection or Surveillance Zone? Y / N</b> <b>Details:</b>

**Local authorities must co-ordinate effectively with Animal Health** when gathering information relating to poultry keepers during a disease situation. There should be no duplication of effort, and contact with poultry premises should remain limited. Local authorities should ensure that any relevant information about poultry keepers is fed into their local records, and issued to Animal Health immediately.

All owners of poultry within the Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone **should be provided with** relevant information on Avian Influenza (HPAI). Advice on drafting this is included within Annex A of the LACORS Notifiable Animal Disease Contingency Plan for Local Authorities in England. Authorities should liaise with Animal Health to agree which body will target which areas and to agree wording of any communication.

All owners of poultry in the Protection Zone should be advised that Animal Health **are likely to complete a clinical visit at the premises.**



## 8.2 Advice on Writing Public Information and Advice Leaflets/Letters

Due to the number of different control zones that could be implemented, and the flexibility of measures that may be introduced in each of these zones it is not possible to centrally produce template advice leaflets/letters. However, this section contains advice on the type of information that could be included within advice leaflets or letters, and some example text including general questions and answers. The content of such leaflets or letters must be agreed locally with Animal Health.

This section also includes an example letter that was used in an outbreak of H5N1 in poultry.

Information and advice leaflets could include:

- Information on the declared zones, including a link to Defra website
- Ban on bird gatherings
- Separation of poultry from wild birds, including link to Defra advice
- <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/pdf/separating.pdf>
- Movement restrictions. This should include a link to information and General Licences on Defra website. It might be possible to include a list of available General Licences, however it will not be possible to provide information on all types of movement restrictions.
- Requirements to keep records
- Cleansing and disinfection/biosecurity requirements

Further example text could include:

### General Advice

You must notify Animal Health if you suspect your birds are infected with Avian Influenza. It is advisable to examine stock daily for signs of the disease.

The **clinical signs** of Avian Influenza include the sudden onset of a watery swelling of the head, blueing of the combs and wattles, dullness, off food, respiratory distress, diarrhoea, drop in egg production and increased mortality with sudden death.

### General Information

Animal Health hold details of a wide range of poultry keepers. Any poultry keepers identified by the local authority should be passed to Animal Health for disease control purposes. Animal Health will be contacting all known poultry keepers within the Protection Zone directly, and may arrange to conduct a veterinary inspection of your premises.

### **Further Information**

Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC) / Local Animal Health Divisional Office Animal Health  
Tel:

Local Authority Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Team  
Tel:

Defra website section on Avian Influenza (HPAI) -  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/index.htm>  
Health Protection Agency  
[http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics\\_az/avianinfluenza/menu.htm](http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/avianinfluenza/menu.htm)

## **1. What is Avian Influenza?**

Avian Influenza is a highly infectious disease affecting many species of birds, including commercial, wild and pet birds. It may affect people and other animals in certain circumstances. It is caused by a Type A influenza virus.

AI viruses can be classified according to their ability to cause severe disease (pathogenicity) as either highly pathogenic or low pathogenic. Highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses (HPAI) can cause severe disease in susceptible birds and low pathogenic avian influenza viruses (LPAI) generally cause mild disease or no disease at all. Avian influenza is one of the most important poultry diseases, and serious outbreaks of disease have been reported in many countries.

## **2. Why is there so much concern about current outbreaks?**

There is concern that the virus may change (reassort or mutate) to emerge as a new virus that is easily transmissible between people and capable of causing disease in people, birds and other animals. Influenza A viruses occur worldwide in man and a wide range of mammals.

The high pathogenic H5N1 AI strain involved in most of the recent Asian outbreaks has shown the ability to jump the species barrier occasionally and cause severe disease, with high mortality, in humans. It has not shown the ability to move easily between humans.

Avian and human influenza viruses can exchange genetic material when a person or other animal susceptible to infection with both viruses is simultaneously infected with both viruses. This could create a completely new subtype of the influenza virus to which few, if any, humans would have immunity and which might be able to spread between humans.

More information on the risks of this happening and the implications are held on the [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) and [Health Protection Agency \(HPA\)](#) websites.

## **3. I have heard bird flu will kill millions of people. Is this the same disease?**

No. Avian influenza (bird flu) is primarily a disease of **birds**. It is caused by influenza viruses closely related to human influenza viruses. Transmission to humans in close

contact with poultry or other birds occurs rarely and only with some strains of avian influenza.

There is potential for mutation of avian influenza viruses to new forms of virus that can cause severe disease in humans and spread easily from person to person. That possibility is a great concern for public health.

#### **4. Does it affect humans and if so, how?**

Humans are usually infected only through close contact with live infected birds. The severity of disease in humans varies from mild disease to severe respiratory disease. This depends on the strain of virus and characteristics of the person infected. Human deaths have been reported following severe disease.

#### **5. Can people get it from other people?**

There have been a limited number of well documented cases in which there is evidence to suggest person-to-person transmission but to date there is no evidence that the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus has adapted to spread easily in humans.

#### **6. Which groups of people would be at most risk if we had the disease in poultry in the UK?**

People in close contact with infected poultry or infective material from poultry are most at risk. This would include poultry farm workers, veterinarians and others involved in disease control.

#### **7. Can we vaccinate people against bird flu?**

No. There is currently **no vaccine to protect people against AI infection or disease**, though one is being developed. There is however good evidence that avian flu viruses respond to antiviral drugs, and in the UK oseltamivir or other appropriate antiviral agent would be used for the treatment of avian flu in people exposed to the virus. Or to protect people, including poultry workers, who might become exposed to the virus during disease control activities. Such people will be supplied with appropriate antiviral drugs, under prescription, as soon as possible and at least within 48 hours of exposure.

The Department of Health is currently offering seasonal human flu vaccine to those who work in close contact with poultry. However this may change dependent on the situation. Further information is available on the DoH website at:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/Flu/fs/en>

#### **8. Is it safe to eat poultry or game?**

The Food Standards Agency considers that the outbreak of avian flu does not pose a food safety risk for UK consumers. This is because the risk of catching the disease in humans is from being in close contact with live poultry that have the disease and not through eating poultry. There have been no reports of people handling poultry meat getting infected. **WHO advice** is that there is no health risk from well cooked poultry meat or from eggs.

## **9. Can I get AI from handling wild birds?**

Avian Influenza is not known to be permanently present in the country in wild birds. However it was found in birds in Dorset in 2008 and although restrictions have been lifted, expert ornithological and veterinary advice is that infection may still be found, both in this area or elsewhere in the country. The UK is at a constant and low level of risk of the introduction of HPAI H5N1, with a slight increase in risk during winter and spring migration. All bird keepers in the UK should continue to practice the highest levels of biosecurity and be vigilant for any signs of disease. Wildfowling and those in contact with wild birds should always take appropriate hygiene precautions when handling wild birds.

Advice and information are available on the Defra website in relation to wild birds:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/wildbirds/index.htm>

## **10. How does the government control outbreaks of avian influenza here?**

The Government's contingency plan is available at

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/newcastle/pdf/genericcp-final.pdf>

As required under EU legislation, disease control would include killing infected birds and dangerous contacts, and the imposition of movement controls around the infected premises.

## 8.2.1 Example Letter used in Outbreak of H5N1 in Poultry

### Letter to residents of the Control Zones

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following an outbreak of H5N1 (highly pathogenic) Avian Influenza in poultry in your area, the Secretary of State has declared a number of control zones to contain the disease and reduce the risk of it spreading further. Your address is believed to lie within these zones. This letter provides you with some information about the zones, and tells you where you can find more information if you would like to.

A map showing the extent of the zones can be seen on the Defra web site <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/latest-situation/index.htm>

**Latest information on the outbreak can be found on the Defra website**

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/>

#### Human health

H5N1 does not pass easily from birds to people. People can become infected but rarely are. Where they have caught H5N1 in other countries it is because of close and prolonged contact with infected poultry or poultry products. There is no evidence that H5N1 has acquired the ability to pass easily from person to person.

#### Eating poultry products

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) considers that avian influenza does not pose a food safety risk for UK consumers. FSA advises proper handling during food preparation. When handling raw poultry, the person involved in the food preparation should wash their hands thoroughly and clean surfaces and utensils in contact with the poultry products. Soap and hot water are sufficient for this purpose.

#### Enjoying the Countryside

Although Ministers have powers to restrict access to premises in protection zones, in the current situation there is no need for people to reduce their visits to the countryside. We expect there to be little need to restrict access to land by closing footpaths or other rights of way, or land to which there is a general right of access.

#### Wild bird surveillance

Within the area around the infected premises there will be raised levels of surveillance. Elsewhere Defra will continue to pursue their wild bird surveillance programme which is targeted to those areas likely to be at greatest risk.

If you find dead wild gulls, waders, ducks, geese or swans you may wish to contact the **Defra Helpline (08459 33 55 77)** and choose the Avian Influenza option

#### Pet animals

As a precautionary approach, Defra recommend that if you live within 3km of the area where avian influenza has been confirmed (the protection zone) pet owners should aim to keep their cats indoors and exercise their dogs on a lead. This is for the protection of your animals and is not for public health purposes. In all other areas you can continue as

normal and your pets are not at risk. However, we would advise that you take similar precautions in areas where wild birds congregate, such as wetlands. You may also wish to try and prevent your pets scavenging dead birds. More information can be found on the Defra website

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/otheranimals/index.htm>

## 9. Additional Information

There is a range of information available to both local authorities and the general public in relation to Avian Influenza (HPAI).

It is essential that local authorities maintain an awareness of the information issued by central government departments at all times, but particularly during a disease situation. LACORS will also maintain up to date information specifically for local authorities.

### LACORS Information

Summary of the different controlled zones that can be applied:

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=15944&docType=C>

### Accessing the Great Britain Poultry Register, including backyard flocks.

Information circulated by Defra to poultry keepers after confirmed case of H5N1 in Suffolk

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=15571&docType=C>

Local authority access to GB Poultry Register data

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=20037&docType=C>

Backyard flocks and leaflets

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=7426&docType=C>

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=4162&docType=C>

Enforcement

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=4802&docType=C>

### Collection of dead wild birds. (This guidance was collated and re issued during September 2006)

Collated Guidance

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=14551&docType=C>

### Enforcement of requirements relating to the separation of domestic poultry from wild birds.

Current Guidance

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=18017&docType=C>

#### Earlier Guidance

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=8006&docType=C>

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=7487&docType=C>

#### **Guidance on road signs and public land signs for England and Wales.**

##### Road Sign Guidance

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=15694&docType=C>

##### Avian Influenza Footpath and Infected Premises Signs

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=15566&docType=C>

#### **Secondment of officers to support other local authorities, including authorisations**

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=14916&docType=C>

#### **Defra Bio Security Guidance for Visitors to Poultry Premises**

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=15594&docType=C>

#### **LACORS Bio Security Guidance for Local Authorities (relating to visits to livestock premises)**

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=7524&docType=C>

#### **Other Specific Information**

##### Defra Avian Influenza (HPAI) - Website Section

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/index.htm>

##### Defra Avian Influenza (HPAI) – Questions and Answers

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/qanda/index.htm>

##### Defra Avian Influenza (HPAI) – Fact Sheet, including legislation

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/ai/index.htm>

##### Defra Guidance on Kept Birds - Including Bio Security, separation from wild birds, bird gatherings and markets

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/keptbirds/index.htm>

##### Defra Information on the National Poultry Register for Great Britain

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/vetsurveillance/poultry/index.htm>

#### **General Websites**

##### Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS)

[www.lacors.gov.uk](http://www.lacors.gov.uk)

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

Health Protection Agency

[http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics\\_az/avianinfluenza/menu.htm](http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/avianinfluenza/menu.htm)

The Department of Health

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/index.htm>

The Health and Safety Executive

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/>



### Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza – Restrictions Summary

#### 1. What is Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza?

Low pathogenic avian influenza viruses (LPAI) generally cause mild disease or no disease at all, while highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses (HPAI) can cause severe disease in susceptible birds.

#### 2. How is LPAI transmitted?

AI is not an air-borne disease. AI is spread by movement of infected birds or contact with respiratory secretions, and in particular faeces, either directly or through contaminated objects, clothes or vehicles.

##### 2.1 Does the virus spread easily from birds to humans?

No. Though more than 122 human cases of avian influenza have occurred in the current outbreak only approximately 60 individuals have died in Asia. This is a small number compared with the huge number of birds affected and the numerous associated opportunities for human exposure, especially in areas where backyard flocks are common

#### 3. What is the impact of LPAI?

Some birds, especially waterfowl, can be infected with Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza without showing any signs of disease.

In domestic poultry, low pathogenic avian influenza commonly causes only mild symptoms (ruffled feathers, a drop in egg production, respiratory signs) and may go undetected.

#### 4. LPAI outbreaks in UK

A case of low pathogenic avian influenza H7N2 was confirmed a flock in Conwy, North Wales on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

A further case of low pathogenic avian influenza H7N2 in poultry was confirmed on a non-commercial small holding near St Helens, Lancashire, on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

#### 5. Legislation

Restrictions to be applied at premises with confirmed cases of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) are included within The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in

Mammals (England) (No.2) Order 2006, or The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Wales) (No.2) Order 2006.

These can be located through the links below –

The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No.2) Order 2006

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/20062702.htm>

The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Wales) (No.2) Order 2006

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi2006/wsi\\_20062927\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi2006/wsi_20062927_en.pdf)

## **6. Suspicion of AI**

On notification of suspected avian influenza, there is an obligation on the owner or keeper of the birds not to move anything off the premises that could spread disease pending the arrival of the Animal Health Veterinary Inspector to carry out an investigation.

The Veterinary Inspector serves a notice on arrival at the premises placing controls on the movement of poultry, other captive birds, people, animals, eggs, vehicles and other things liable to spread disease to and from the premises. Poultry and captive birds on site must be housed or otherwise isolated from wild birds. Disinfection facilities must be installed at entrances and exits of the premises and bird housing.

It is possible to not apply some of the measures in Schedule 1 based on a risk assessment or increasing controls by applying some or all of the measures in [Schedule 2 of the AI Order](#).

Depending on the level of suspicion and risk, temporary control zones (TCZ) and temporary movements restriction zones (TMRZ) may be declared around the suspect premises. The TMRZ may be regional or national. The size of the zones and the measures in them would be based on a risk assessment.

Restrictions on a suspect premises and any zones declared will be revoked if disease is not confirmed.

## **7. Measures on confirmation of LPAI**

Upon confirmation of low pathogenic avian influenza, Defra or WAG will normally make a formal declaration creating a restricted zone around the infected premises. There are also likely to be restrictions on bird gatherings implemented via amendments to the General Licence for Bird Gatherings.

Further details on the measures are available on the Defra website:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/ai/index.htm#confirmlpai>

## **7.1 Infected premises**

If LPAI is confirmed on a premises then a notice is served on it applying measures similar to those for a confirmed case of HPAI. These can be found in Schedule 6 of the The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No.2) Order 2006

The default position is that all infected poultry and captive birds would be slaughtered. In a special category premises this rule may not be applied as long as disease control is not threatened. Any such derogations will be decided on a case by case basis.

Eggs on the infected premises would also be destroyed. However, this rule may, subject to risk, not be applied to hatching eggs at special category premises.

The occupier must arrange for the premises to be cleansed and disinfected in accordance with the instructions of a Veterinary Inspector.

Veterinary Inspectors would carry out an investigation at infected premises to identify contact premises.

An infected premises may not be re-stocked until at least 21 days after final cleansing and disinfection of the premises.

## **7.2 Low pathogenic restricted zone**

If LPAI is confirmed a low pathogenic avian influenza restricted zone will be declared. However, if LPAI is confirmed in a hatchery or in other captive birds in special category premises the legislation allows for a greater degree of flexibility in applying the zone and the measures in them as long as the risk of disease spread is contained.

### **Low pathogenic avian influenza restricted zone (LPAI RZ)**

The LPAI RZ must have a radius of at least 1km around the outbreak point.

The measures applying on premises where there are poultry or other captive birds within the LPAI RZ are set out in Schedule 7 of The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No.2) Order 2006. These include:

- Movement restrictions on poultry, other captive birds, mammals, eggs carcasses and poultry waste except where licensed;
- Bio security measures for people, premises and vehicles;
- A ban on bird gatherings;
- A ban on the release of game birds.

Further information on the controls applying to movement of poultry and eggs in an LPAIRZ is available on the Defra website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/ai/index.htm#confirmlpai>

The LPAI RZ must be in place for at least 21 days after the preliminary cleansing and disinfection of the infected premises. The duration will take account of surveillance in the area showing that there is no disease present.

## **8. Local authority role in a disease situation**

Local authorities are responsible for enforcing the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended) and the Avian Influenza orders.

Local authorities will be predominantly focused on ensuring movement restrictions are under this legislation are understood and complied with.

Local authorities will also ensure aim to ensure that appropriate advice is provided / information is made available to their local communities.

## **9. LACORS' role in a disease situation**

LACORS will attend the National Disease Control Centre in London and will represent authorities in England and Wales in co-ordination with the LGA or Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) as necessary. We will closely liaise with the WLGA, local authorities involved, Animal Health and Defra as required.

## **10. Additional Information**

### **10.1 Defra**

Defra will update their website with relevant information at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/>.

Defra also have further specialist information about Avian Influenza at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/index.htm>

### **10.2 LACORS guidance**

[www.lacors.gov.uk](http://www.lacors.gov.uk)

In November 2007 LACORS produced a list of guidance available for local authorities relating to Avian Influenza. This is available at <http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=18003&docType=C>.

While some of the information included within this document is only relevant to HPAI, guidance on the poultry register, bio security, road signs and dead birds can still be considered.

Since the above summary was published, the following information has been made available:

Revised Avian Influenza annex to contingency plan template, of which this document is an annex of and which is available on the LACORS website [www.lacors.gov.uk](http://www.lacors.gov.uk)

Updated information for local authorities to gain access to the British Poultry Register is also available:  
<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=20037&docType=C>

Guidance on housing captive birds:  
<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=18017&docType=C>

Disease outbreak advice for LAs – bird scaring at airports:  
<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=18758&docType=C>