



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

Animal and Plant Health  
Rougham Hill  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP33 2RX

T 03000 20030  
[www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha)



Norfolk County Council

Community and Environmental  
Services  
County Hall  
Martineau Lane  
Norwich  
NR1 2TN

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Important information for bird keepers in the Wells-next-the-sea area**

**Please read and take appropriate action as outlined below by Wednesday 25 January 2023**

There is a confirmed outbreak of a highly pathogenic strain of Avian Influenza on premises local to you. This letter is being sent to residents in the Wells-next-the-sea area, within a 3 km radius of that premises. The Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Norfolk County Council are working together to manage the outbreak and communicate with residents.

#### **Protection zone declared**

The Government has declared a 3km Protection Zone around the places where disease has been confirmed to help prevent its spread. If you have poultry or other birds present at your premises you are now subject to legally enforced conditions that apply within this zone. The avian influenza found in your area is caused by a strain that is adapted for birds and presents very low risk to human health.

**You can see a map of the zone on the Government website:**

**<https://www.gov.uk/animal-disease-cases-england/bird-flu-near-wells-next-the-sea-north-norfolk-norfolk-aiv-2023-slash-06>**

It may, in the future, be necessary to amend the zone or impose additional zones to control the disease.

#### **Keep birds? Please complete our online survey**

To help us gain an accurate picture of captive birds in the area, and assess and control the risks appropriately, we are asking all keepers of birds within the zone to complete our survey: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/avianflusurvey](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/avianflusurvey) or via the QR code below. You can also call us to provide the information on **0344 800 8020**.



THE SURVEY WILL BE TAKEN  
DOWN ON THE EVENING OF  
Wednesday 25 January 2023

DON'T HESITATE  
PLEASE DO IT NOW

Please complete the survey if you keep birds of any number, species, or breed within the zone – either at your home, garden, dovecote, allotment, smallholding, or farm – to play your part in helping protect local wildfowl, poultry farms and your own birds. Complete the survey form if you keep any captive birds within that zone, including poultry or game birds such as chickens, ducks, geese, pheasants, any aviary, and caged birds, or any racing or fancy pigeons.

### **Mandatory registration of poultry**

If you keep poultry, you should register your birds. If you have more than 50 birds you **MUST** register them by law at <https://www.gov.uk/poultry-registration>. If you have fewer than 50 birds, you should also inform the APHA as soon as possible as your premises is located in the zone, using the online survey form link above. This will enable us to monitor Avian Influenza infection in the area and provide you with timely information and advice on keeping your birds safe. It is not mandatory to have a CPH (County Parish Holding) number if you keep fewer than 50 birds.

It would be helpful if you could let us know if any of your immediate neighbours have poultry that we may not know about. This would be in confidence and not intended to 'catch people out' but merely to ensure we cover anyone who may have missed this communication. You can use the survey form or the telephone number above.

If you have completed the survey APHA staff may then recontact you very shortly so that veterinary staff can assess the risk of avian influenza spread. A vet may need to get in touch to carry out a visual inspection of your birds to assess their health. **In the meantime, if your birds show any signs of disease, you must report your suspicions to APHA immediately by telephoning 03000 200 301.**

As always, please seek advice from your own vet if your birds become ill for any reason. If you or your vet suspect the disease, you are required by law to report it for investigation.

### **Heightened biosecurity**

If you keep birds in the zone you are required to comply with heightened biosecurity measures to contain the disease and prevent further spread. This website provides details: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>. Norfolk is also part of a Regional Prevention Zone, see this website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#AIPZ>.

Unless you are responsible for the care of another keeper's stock, please do not visit other livestock premises containing species susceptible to the disease until you are advised it is safe to do so. Further information on the current avian influenza restrictions and controls which apply in your area can be found on the government website.

You can subscribe to APHA's free Disease Alerts to receive up-to-date news by phone, fax or email on this or other incidents of notifiable exotic animal diseases: [www.gov.uk/guidance/apha-alert-subscription-service](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/apha-alert-subscription-service).

Thank you for your cooperation

Yours faithfully

APHA Surveillance Team & Norfolk County Council Trading Standards Service