



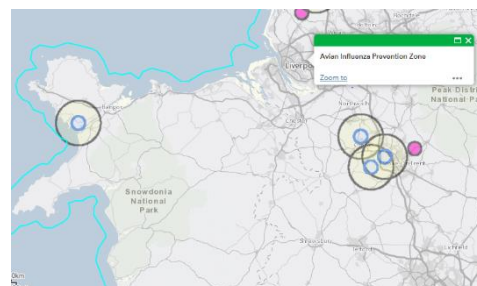
## Guidance for Working in Avian Influenza Zones

Avian influenza (bird flu) is a seasonally occurring virus and infections are normally reported between autumn and spring. A new Avian Influenza Prevention Zone for Great Britain has been declared and came into force from midday the 17<sup>th</sup> of October.

Outbreaks of avian influenza place requirements on landowners, premises occupiers, and those travelling into, and out of, the outbreak zones to take certain measures to prevent the spread of avian influenza.

### What is the current state?

The situation is very fluid and the number and location of cases, and associated control measures, in England, Wales and Scotland can change from one day to the next.



### What are the potential implications to SPEN operations?

SPEN staff, and third parties working on our behalf, access a variety of locations across the UK, in particular operations are undertaken in rural locations. SPEN, or our contractors, could be required to undertake works within a 'disease control zone'.

As noted above, the situation is very fluid and an avian influenza disease control zone could be declared at any location, at any time. In addition, an existing disease control zone could have been revoked.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has said that avian influenza is primarily a disease of birds and the risk to the general public's health is very low. However, it is important that you ensure you avoid contact with any birds (dead or alive), their droppings or bedding, and maintain good hygiene.

### Recommendations and Action Points

- Review the SPEN Bio-security guidance (ENV-04-020) to familiarise yourself with the SPEN bio-security requirements and recommendations..
- Prior to any work commencing, identify whether you, or someone you are putting to work, will likely be entering a disease control zone or other restricted area where specific requirements have been identified by the lead authority. Further information on these areas can be found at the English, Welsh and Scottish Government websites linked below.
- Familiarise yourself with any specific requirements set by the lead authority, landowner / premises occupier or veterinary inspector. In the absence of any specific requirements, follow the bio-security measures in ENV-04-020.

It is important that any specific measures, or where there are no specific measures in place, appropriate measures, are followed to prevent the spread of avian influenza resulting from SPEN activities, or the activities of third parties acting on behalf of SPEN.

### For further information and guidance:

[SPEN Biosecurity guidance ENV-04-020](#)

[English Government - Avian Influenza updates](#)

[Welsh Government – Avian Influenza updates](#)

[Scottish Government – Avian Influenza updates](#)

[View the map of current zones here](#)

### Further contacts:

SPEN Sustainability Team:

Cheryl Andrew: T: 07927 565825; E: candrew@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Kevin Thaw: T: 07598 607576; E: kthaw@spenergynetworks.co.uk