IMPORTANT NOTICE

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1,
3km Protection Zone and 10km surveillance zone
Near Garstang

A confirmed case of Avian Influenza has occurred at premises near Garstang.

The Government declared on 7th November 2026: A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone have been declared around the premises. All poultry on the premises will be humanely culled. The risk to public health from the virus is very low, however it is important that people don't pick up sick or dead birds.

APHA staff will contact known poultry/captive bird owners within the next few days to gather further information to help veterinary staff to assess the risk of avian influenza spread.

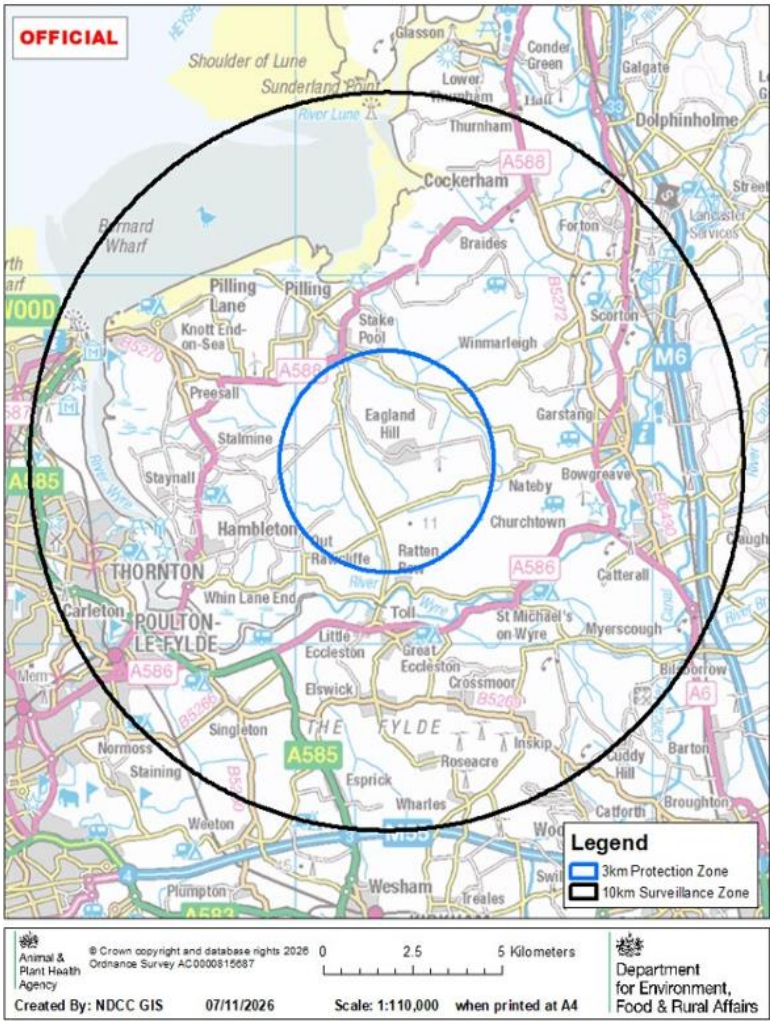
APHA veterinary staff may need to inspect your birds to assess their health. There is no automatic culling policy for avian influenza outbreaks.

Birds will only be culled if Avian Influenza is confirmed in the flock following laboratory testing of samples, or if a veterinary risk assessment indicates a strong likelihood of significant links to an infected premises.

Compulsory registration of poultry and captive birds with APHA has been required since 01/10/2024. If you keep poultry or captive birds and have not registered, you must do so now by visit www.gov.uk and search for Poultry Registration. There is a legal requirement to do this for all birdkeepers.

Special Measures

If you have poultry or other birds, you must adhere to the conditions and movement restrictions within the declared zone. Heightened biosecurity measures have been put in place to protect your birds from disease and prevent its spread. All poultry and captive birds must be housed or isolated. Licences are required for certain movements. You can find further information on the current avian influenza restrictions and controls which apply in the area at: **Bird flu (avian influenza): latest situation in England - GOV.UK**



Signs of Avian Influenza

If your birds become ill, consult your vet immediately. Avian Influenza spreads through direct contact or contaminated fluids and faeces. Symptoms in poultry include:

- Swollen head and blue discolouration of the neck and throat
- Loss of appetite and diarrhoea
- Respiratory distress (gaping beak, coughing, sneezing, gurgling, rattling)
- Reduced egg production and increased mortality

By law, if you or your vet suspects that kept birds are showing any signs of disease it must be **immediately reported to APHA by telephoning 03000 200 301.**

Wild Birds

If the birds are wild, no action is required. However, you can assist by reporting dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese, ducks) or other wild birds (gulls, birds of prey) to the Defra helpline at **03459 335577** or on the Government website: **www.gov.uk/guidance/report-dead-wild-birds**

Scan this QR code to visit the government web page for this case: