



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Wales Biosecurity Measures

Self-assessment checklist for keepers of game birds



Anyone keeping game birds should complete this form (and update following any changes in circumstances) and retain it as a record for the duration of the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) in Wales. Keepers may be asked to produce a completed checklist for inspection.

In the AIPZ declaration you will find a list of mandatory biosecurity measures that must be implemented on your premises. Where you have answered “No” in this form you must take action to improve your biosecurity, to comply with the mandatory biosecurity measures in the AIPZ declaration.

In this form, game bird means any:

- pheasant
- partridge
- ptarmigan
- grouse or moor game
- black (or heath) game
- ducks bred for shooting

It is recognised that some of those species are not commonly reared in captivity.

Name of Farm/Premises where birds are kept:

Address:

Contact Tel/Mobile No:

CPH (If applicable):

Type of enterprise (breeding, rearing, hatchery etc):

Usual stock numbers and species:

Completed by:

Name:

Date:

Signed: *(Please print in BLOCK CAPITALS)*

Status: *(e.g. Owner, Keeper etc)*

Registration

Are you registered on the Poultry Register of Great Britain? All bird keepers must register their birds (excluding those psittacines (*parrots, cockatoos and budgerigars*) and passerines (*small 'perching' birds, such as finches, sparrows, tits, wrens and jays*) that are permanently housed either within a dwelling, or within a bird house on the same premises with no access to outdoors) – this is a legal requirement.

[Poultry registration – GOV.UK](#)

Biosecurity

Effective biosecurity is essential in the game bird sector to prevent the introduction and spread of infectious diseases, safeguarding both animal health and business continuity. By implementing robust measures, producers can protect wildlife and maintain high welfare standards.

For the purpose of this form “premises” mean any house, shed, aviary, range, coop, netted area, release pen, or similar area which is used to keep game birds.

1. Premises detail

Please draw or attach a plan of your premises, bio-security points, foot dips.

Questionnaire

2. Who deals with your birds on a daily basis?

Please name and provide contact details if different to contact details on page 1.

3. Are all those with access to the premises where game birds are kept aware of their responsibility for Biosecurity including accidental transfer of infection.

Yes

No

4. At entry to the live bird areas including release pens, what biosecurity arrangements have you got in place?

Either:

- a) a foot dip containing government approved poultry disinfectant, at least ankle deep and under cover to avoid dilution by rain or exposure to UV light. Disinfectant is regularly replenished. Prior to using the foot dip, any soil or organic matter is removed from footwear with a brush.

Yes

No

Or:

- b) dedicated footwear is used when inside the live bird area or in the release pen

Yes

No

5. Is your disinfectant Government approved?

For the list of approved disinfectants please check:

www.disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/DisinfectantsExternal/Default.aspx?Module=ApprovalsList_SI

Yes

No

What disinfectants do you use?

At what dilution?

How often do you replenish it?

Is the boot dip container covered?

Yes

No

6. General Biosecurity

- i. If releasing pheasants and red legged partridges, what is the ratio between feeding stations and game birds within each release pen?

- ii. Do you ensure that feed stations are under cover to prevent contamination with wild bird droppings? (where possible water stations should also be covered)

Yes No

- iii. Do you ensure feeding troughs, drinkers, bowls, and vessels are inspected daily and cleaned as appropriate to remove soiling with faecal matter and feathers?

Yes No

- iv. Do you store feed securely to prevent access to other birds and pests e.g. in a secure shed or container?

Yes No

- v. Do you ensure that spilled feed, which could attract wild birds, is removed daily to avoid attracting wild birds?

Yes No

- vi. Within the pen (when in use) – Do you move feeding and watering stations regularly (at least once a week) to avoid accumulation of faecal matter and feathers?

Yes No

- vii. Do you feed game birds (when kept within a pen) further than 500m from any other poultry or kept birds?

Yes No

- viii. Do you inspect your kept game birds daily for signs of disease or unusual behaviour?

Yes No

ix. Do you check a 50m radius around pens (whilst in use) daily for dead wild birds?

Yes

No

x. Do you ensure that fallen stock/animal products etc. (e.g. spoiled feed, general waste, carcasses) are correctly disposed. For further information see:

[Fallen stock and safe disposal of dead animals – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fallen-stock-and-safe-disposal-of-dead-animals)

Yes

No

7. Record keeping

i. Records are kept of number of birds put in pens, mortalities, and clinical signs including dates.

Yes

No

ii. Visitor logs are maintained with names of those accessing pens (whilst in use) with contact details, dates, and purposes of visits.

Yes

No

iii. Records of deliveries, collections, and live bird movements from or to the premises are kept with relevant contact details.

Yes

No

8. Rodent & Pest control

Describe your rodent and pest control arrangements around premises. If you use contractors, provide their details.

9. Multiple bird species

If you keep multiple bird species on site e.g., pheasants, ducks and partridges, please describe the current arrangements for their separation.

10. Do you restrict access of your pheasants and partridges (kept in pens) to ponds and water courses?

Ponds and water courses attract wild waterfowl, such as wild ducks, geese and swans who can carry the avian influenza virus and spread it without showing any signs of illness.

Yes

No

Please provide details how this separation is implemented.

Please retain the completed form in your records so that it can be produced upon request by Animal Plant Health, Local Authority, or other agencies. The self-assessment checklist should be reviewed on an annual basis.

Signs of bird flu

Birds infected with the most serious strain of bird flu, called highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), usually show some (or all) of the following signs.

- sudden death
- swollen head
- closed and runny eyes
- lethargy and depression
- lying down and unresponsiveness
- lack of coordination
- eating less than usual
- lethargy
- sudden increase or decrease in water consumption
- head and body shaking
- drooping of the wings
- dragging of legs
- twisting of the head and neck
- swelling and blue discolouration of comb and wattles
- haemorrhages and redness on leg shanks and under the skin of the neck
- breathing difficulties such as gaping (mouth breathing), nasal snicking (coughing sound), sneezing, gurgling, or rattling
- fever or noticeable increase in body temperature
- discoloured or loose watery droppings
- stop or significant drop in egg production.

Some species such as ducks, geese and swans can carry the avian influenza virus and spread it without showing any signs of illness.

Birds infected with the less serious strain of bird flu, called low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) may not show clear signs of infection. They may have mild breathing problems. These signs can indicate bird flu, but the avian influenza virus can only be confirmed through laboratory tests.

If you are concerned about the health of your birds speak to your private vet.

If you suspect infection with avian influenza in your kept birds, **you must report it immediately** by calling APHA Wales **03003 038 268**.

Bird flu is a [notifiable disease](#) in poultry and other captive birds. If you do not report it, you're breaking the law.

All dead wild birds (this includes game birds after release) should be reported via the Defra online system on GOV.UK or by calling the Defra helpline on **03459 33 55 77**. Individuals should record the unique reference number as evidence that the incident has been reported. The report will be triaged and the carcasses may be collected for testing. If it is not collected within 96 hours it can be assumed it is not required for Avian Influenza testing, and the carcasses must be appropriately disposed of. For information on disposal of carcasses, please see: [Removing and disposing of dead wild birds](#).