



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Avian Influenza H5N8 in Ireland

National Disease Control Centre

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Situation in Wild Birds up to 10th December 2020



- 9 wild birds positive for HPAI H5N8 found in 6 counties since early November.
- Cork, Kildare, Limerick, Mayo, Monaghan, and Wicklow.
- The species of birds include swans (mute & whooper), a curlew and peregrine falcons.



National Measures



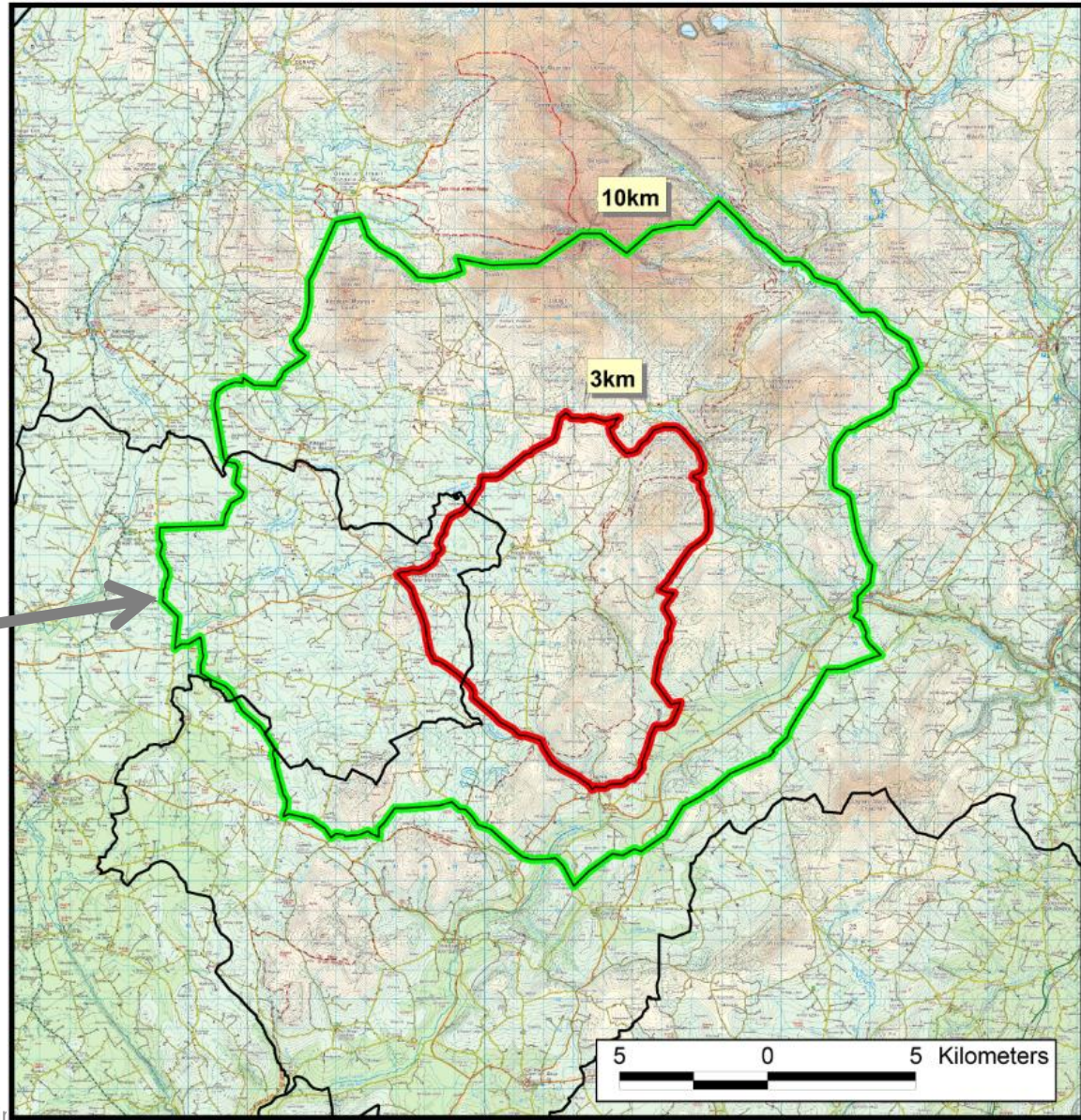
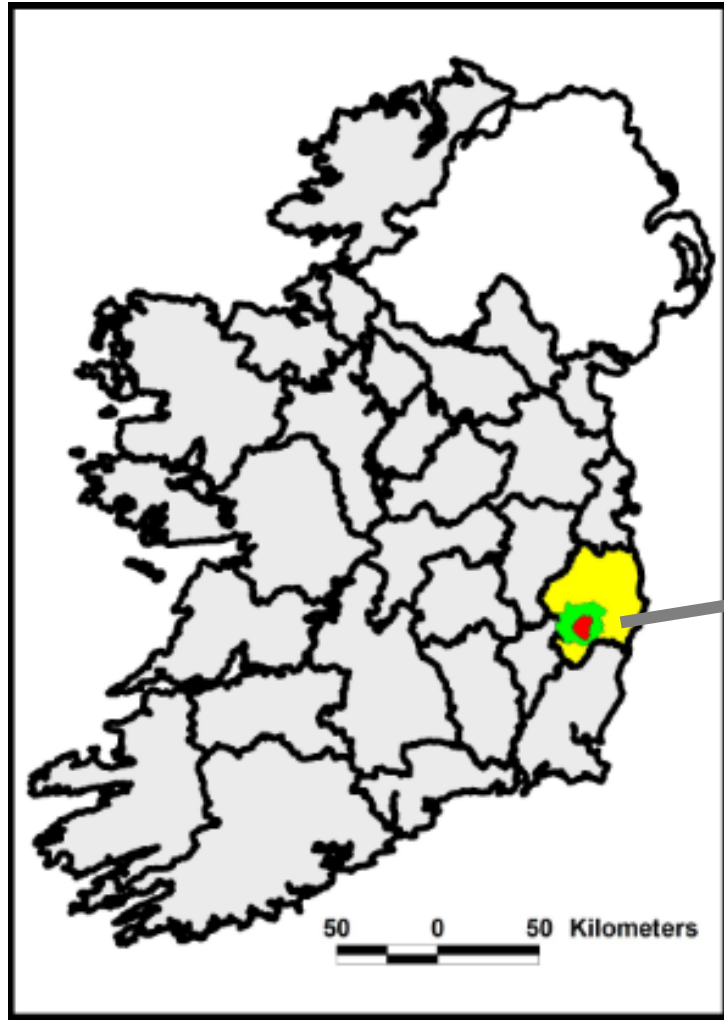
- DAFM introduced the Avian Influenza (Biosecurity measures) Regulations 2020 and Avian Influenza (Restriction on Assembly of Live Birds) Regulations 2020 on 1st of December.
- The Avian Influenza (Biosecurity measures) Regulations 2020 includes requirements on:
 - Fencing of outdoor areas which poultry have access to.
 - Separation of ducks and geese from other poultry or captive birds.
 - Feed and watering of birds indoors.
 - Records of movements on and off the holding.
- The Avian Influenza (Restriction on Assembly of Live Birds) Regulations 2020 bans the organisation of, or attendance at, events which involve assembling birds at live marts or similar congregations.

First outbreak in poultry in Ireland



- Avian Influenza H5N8 confirmed in a small turkey flock (127 birds) 10th December 2020.
- Pathogenicity pending.
- The turkeys presented with respiratory signs and swollen heads.
- All the birds have been killed and carcasses have been sent for destruction.
- Epidemiological investigation is ongoing.
- Control measures are being implemented in accordance with Council Directive 2005/93/EC (implemented in National legislation as S.I. No. 701 of 2006), including establishment of 3km Protection zone and 10km Surveillance zone.

Surveillance Zone and Protection Zone



Other Actions



- DAFM has implemented a comprehensive awareness programme, including:
 - Regular disease updates are issued to stakeholders by National Disease Control Centre via email, Animal Health Computer System (AHCS) text alerts to Private Veterinary Practitioners
 - Use of Twitter and Facebook by DAFM to issue alerts
 - DAFM ran an ad campaign on DoneDeal for part of 2019/2020 to encourage the registration of poultry flocks and also advertised in the Irish Farmers Journal in July 2020
 - Meetings with industry stakeholders
 - DAFM has a text alert system to communicate with registered flock owners who sign up to receive them. This was used for flock owners in the Cavan/Monaghan area during the H6N1 outbreaks earlier this year
 - DAFM has an early warning system in place with National Parks and Wildlife Service and the National Association of Regional Game Councils with regard to surveillance for signs of disease in wild birds.



Thank you for your attention!