



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

HPAI H5N8 in Breeding Ducks in the United Kingdom

PAFF Committee, 20th November 2014

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Date: 20 November 2014

Introduction

- Background and Timeline
- Disease Control Measures
- Epidemiological Investigation
- EU and International Trade
- Communications
- Conclusions and next steps

Outbreak History

- 14 November 2014: APHA Investigation into suspicion of avian notifiable disease following the Private Veterinary Surgeon raising suspicion of avian notifiable disease on duck breeding farm of approx. 6500 birds in East Yorkshire (north-east England). Slight increase in mortality and a significant drop in egg production – Note: concurrent diseases complicated the clinical picture.
- 15 November 2014: Initial serology negative for H5/H7 AI and ND; H5 PCR positive.
- 16 November 2014: Sequencing results confirm high pathogenicity. N1 PCR negative. **UK CVO confirmed presence of HPAI H5.**
- 18 November 2014: N-type of virus confirmed as N8 – **H5N8.**

The Infected Premises

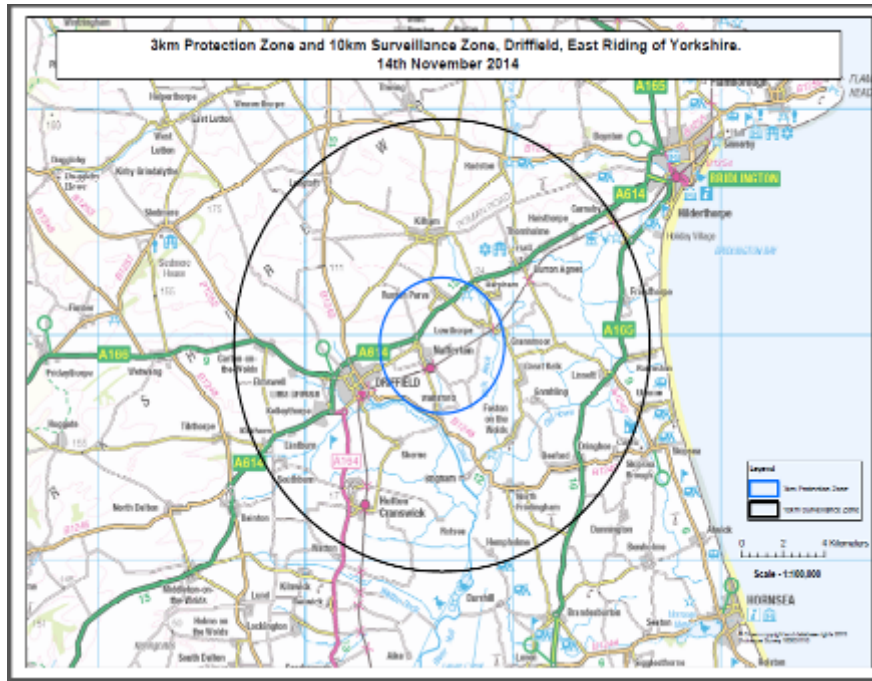
- A commercial indoor duck breeding holding located in East Yorkshire (north-east England).
- The site has 6 sheds – 3 were empty having been depopulated on the 5/6 November 2014.
- The remaining 3 sheds contained between 1500 and 2500 birds (females and males) each – approx. 6500 birds in total.



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Disease Control Measures

All measures in line with **Directive 2005/94/EC** have been applied:



- Premises restrictions - 14 November
- 3km and 10km Protection and Surveillance Zones - 16 November
 - No trade in live poultry, eggs, poultry products, manure or bedding out of the zones
 - Clinical inspections in the PZ
- Depopulation – 18/19 November
- Preliminary C&D – 20/21 November
- Initial analysis indicates this is a “medium” density poultry area
 - PZ – 13 premises
 - SZ – 53 premises
 - foot patrols ongoing to identify any further premises

Epidemiological Investigations

Source/Trace Backward:

- There are several potential hypotheses for source of infection which are being investigated:
 - Contact with infected wild birds
 - Indirect contact with contaminated people, fomites
 - [Introduction through infected products brought into holding]
- Ornithological expertise has been sought, suggesting low level of migratory waterfowl in the area around the property and this is contributing to the ongoing **assessment of the risk posed by wild birds**
- Phylogenetic analysis is underway at the EURL (Weybridge) to compare this strain and other recent detections of H5N8 elsewhere in the world.

Epidemiological Investigations

Spread/Trace Forward:

- We have not identified any movement of live poultry, hatching eggs or day old chicks to other Member States or Third Countries from the affected premises during the high risk period.
- The carcasses of the depopulated birds from 5/6 November are being traced.
- Tracings of people, vehicles, contact premises (including hatcheries) are underway.
- All poultry premises within the 1km radius have been visited and clinically inspected and there is no sign of clinical disease. The remaining premises within the 3km PZ are being visited as a priority.

EU and International Trade

- Intra-community movements of poultry and poultry products continue outside the Restriction Zones.
- Certificates to Third Countries requiring “country freedom” have been suspended.
- Certificates to other Third Countries where “regional freedom” clauses apply are enabling continuing trade from all except the affected area (Yorkshire).

Communications

- Formal reporting requirements (OIE and ADNS) completed 17 November.
- Key messages:
 - to the industry to remain vigilant and apply high standards of biosecurity.
 - with Public Health England to communicate that the risk to Public Health is very low.
 - with the Food Standards Agency to communicate that HPAI does not pose a food safety risk.

Conclusions and next steps

- Proportionate control measures have been applied in line with Directive 2005/94/EC and are being kept under review as the situation develops.
- Communications to the Industry are highlighting the need for vigilance and high standards of Biosecurity.
- Epidemiological investigations are ongoing and include an assessment of the risk posed by wild birds.
- We will provide an update at the next PAFF Committee (28 November).

Thanks to colleagues from Defra, APHA and others who have contributed to this presentation.

For more information please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/avian-influenza-bird-flu>