PLANNING TEMPLATE · UK

Poultry Biosecurity Plan

For poultry producers to set out how their farm keeps disease out and stops it spreading, all year and when the risk rises.

THIS PLAN BELONGS TO

Producer name _____

Farm name _____

Address and postcode _____

Telephone _____

Plan completed _____

STATUS

Not official guidance. Not approved or endorsed by Defra, APHA, DAERA, the devolved governments or any assurance scheme. Legal requirements and a veterinary inspector's instructions take precedence.

VERSION

Draft v1 · 20 October 2026

LICENCE

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Contents

1 About this template

2 Farm details

3 Biosecure areas and control points

4 Staff and visitors

5 Footwear, clothing and hand hygiene

6 Vehicles and equipment

7 Feed, water and bedding

8 Eggs and packaging

9 Manure, litter and dirty water

10 Fallen stock and waste

11 Wild birds, vermin and other animals

12 Range management

13 Welfare when birds are housed

14 Cleaning and disinfection

15 Records to keep

16 Routine biosecurity checks

17 Signs of disease and how to report

18 Higher-risk periods and disease control zones

19 Sources

1 About this template

This template helps a poultry producer write down how their farm keeps disease out and stops it spreading. A written plan makes it easier to train staff, brief visitors and show an inspector or auditor what is in place.

> **Not official guidance.** This template has not been approved or endorsed by Defra, APHA, DAERA, the devolved governments or any assurance scheme. It is built from government biosecurity guidance, which sets the minimum. Disease control zones, prevention zones and instructions from a veterinary inspector add legal requirements on top. Check the sources before relying on any point.

Describe what you actually do on your farm in each box. Where the guidance says something is a legal requirement, that is stated. Review the plan at least once a year and whenever the farm, the flock or the rules change.

Item	Details
Date this plan was written	
Written by	
Date of next review	
Assurance schemes the farm belongs to	

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

2 Farm details

Item	Our arrangements
Business name	
Premises address and postcode	
CPH number (GB) or herd/flock number (NI)	
Nation (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland)	
Biosecurity officer and phone number	
Responsible owner	
Deputy contact and phone number	
Private vet and phone number	
Number of sites and houses	
Total bird capacity and system (free range, organic, barn, multi-tier)	
Other poultry, captive birds or livestock on the holding	
Other businesses on the holding	
Homes or staff accommodation within the farm boundary	
Public rights of way across or beside the site	
Ponds, lakes, wetlands, rivers or coast nearby (with distances)	
Nearest other commercial poultry farm (distance)	
Pest control contractor	
Cleaning contractor	

Farm biosecurity map

Mark these on the map:

- Farm entrance and site gates
- Private use area (rest of farm)
- Restricted access area boundary
- Live bird areas (houses, numbered)
- Ranges and range entry points
- Biosecurity control points and foot dips
- Vehicle cleansing and disinfection point
- Staff and visitor parking
- Feed bins and egg store
- Fallen stock store and manure store
- Ponds, ditches and standing water
- Public rights of way

Draw your farm map here, or attach a printed map to this page

3 Biosecure areas and control points

Premises with more than 500 birds must be divided into a live bird area, a restricted access area and a private use area. Dividing smaller units the same way is good practice.

Area	What it is
Private use area	The rest of the farm outside the biosecure boundary: the farmhouse, offices, car parking and any other business. Visitor and staff cars stay here.
Restricted access area	The controlled area around the poultry houses, entered only by authorised people and essential vehicles through a gate or barrier. Feed bins, the egg store door and house entrances sit inside it.
Live bird area	The houses and any covered area where birds are kept. Entry is through a footwear and clothing change.
Range	The outdoor area the birds use. It will be contaminated by wild birds, so entry points need their own footwear controls.
Control points	The places where people, vehicles and equipment move from one area to the next: the site gate, the house entrance and the range gate. Each needs a clear barrier and a routine for footwear, clothing and cleaning.

Our control points

Control point	Where it is	What happens there	Who checks it
Farm or site entrance			
Restricted access area gate			
Vehicle cleansing and disinfection point			
House entrance (into live bird area)			
Range entry points			
Egg store external door			

4 Staff and visitors

Keep access to essential people only, and record every visitor. Premises with more than 500 birds must restrict the restricted access area to authorised people.

Visitor records

Government guidance says to record each visitor's name, contact details, the date and time of the visit, and its purpose. Many farms also record vehicle registration, the visitor's last contact with poultry and whether they entered a live bird area.

Item	Our arrangements
Where the visitor book is kept	
Who briefs visitors on the rules	
Our rule on recent contact with other poultry (for example, none in the last 48 hours)	
Visitors allowed into live bird areas, and how they are supervised	
Where visitors park	
What visitors wear (boots, overshoes, overalls)	

Staff

Item	Our arrangements
How staff are trained in this plan, and how often	
Staff attendance records	
Staff assigned to particular houses or sites	
Rules for relief and casual staff	
Rules if staff keep poultry or birds at home	
Contractors (catchers, engineers, vets): how they are briefed and recorded	

5 Footwear, clothing and hand hygiene

Wear clean clothing and footwear in bird housing, and use dedicated overalls for each house.

- Either use a Defra-approved disinfectant foot dip on entry and exit, or keep dedicated footwear that stays inside the house.
- Keep foot dips covered and at least ankle deep, so rain, leaves and sunlight do not weaken them.
- Do not walk outside in footwear that is meant to stay inside.
- Change clothing and footwear when moving between flocks, and handle new or younger birds first where possible.
- Premises with more than 500 birds must make everyone change footwear when entering and leaving the live bird area.

Item	Our arrangements
Footwear at the restricted access area	
Footwear at the house entrance	
Overalls or clothing in the house	
Foot dip product, dilution and how often it is changed	
Where foot dip changes are recorded	
Hand washing and sanitiser points	

6 Vehicles and equipment

Clean and disinfect vehicles and equipment so they cannot carry disease between farms. Premises with more than 500 birds must disinfect vehicle exteriors, especially wheels and wheel arches, on entry and exit, and keep records of vehicles and people.

Item	Our arrangements
Which vehicles may enter the restricted access area	
Vehicle cleansing and disinfection point and equipment	
Product and dilution used on vehicles	
Feed deliveries: route, where the driver stays, spillage clean-up	
Egg collections: route, where the driver stays	
Shared equipment (trailers, crates, pressure washers): how it is cleaned before arriving and leaving	
Vehicle records kept	

7 Feed, water and bedding

Store feed and water where wild birds and rodents cannot reach them, and keep birds away from standing water.

Item	Our arrangements
Feed bins: covered, sealed and checked	
Clearing up feed spills	
Water source and how drinkers and lines are cleaned	
Daily water use records	
Bedding storage (covered, wrapping disinfected before use)	
Grit and supplements storage	

8 Eggs and packaging

Keep the egg store and packing area clean, and stop collection drivers entering it from the bird side.

- Keep cracked or leaking eggs separate from whole eggs.
- Use clean hands or disposable gloves when handling eggs.
- Do not reuse cardboard egg packaging for second-quality eggs.

Item	Our arrangements
How eggs move from the house to the store	
How the collection driver loads (which door, where they stand)	
Cleaning and disinfecting the egg store after collection	
Checking returned pallets, trays and packaging	
Egg room foot dip and hand washing	

9 Manure, litter and dirty water

Remove and store manure so it cannot reach birds, the range or watercourses, and keep dirty water off the range.

Item	Our arrangements
How manure or litter is removed and how often	
Where it is stored	
Where it goes (spreading, biomass, contractor)	
Rule on spreading near ranges or other poultry	
Roof and yard water: where it drains	
Dirty water storage and disposal	
Records of manure removal	

> After a confirmed outbreak, litter, manure and washwater are handled under different rules. See the secondary cleansing and disinfection plan template.

10 Fallen stock and waste

Remove dead birds and damaged eggs quickly. Premises with more than 500 birds must store waste and fallen stock in a biosecure place in the private use area, away from live birds.

Item	Our arrangements
How often houses are checked for dead birds	
Where fallen stock is stored	
How it is disposed of (collection service, approved incinerator)	
Daily mortality records	
What happens if deaths rise suddenly (see section 17)	

11 Wild birds, vermin and other animals

Make the farm unattractive to wild birds and keep rodents, foxes, pets and other livestock away from the houses and feed.

- Check outside areas daily and remove faeces, feathers and carcases.
- Stop wild birds nesting or roosting on buildings, repair gaps, clear blocked gutters and remove moss.
- Keep ducks and geese separate from other poultry, as they can carry the virus without showing signs.
- Premises with more than 500 birds must not feed wild game birds within 500 m of the restricted access area.

Species	Our control measures	Who is responsible	Records kept
Wild birds			
Rats and mice			
Foxes and badgers			
Flies			
Red mite			
Cats, dogs and other pets			
Other livestock			

Item	Our arrangements
Pest control contractor and visit frequency	
Where the bait plan is kept	
Proofing of vents, inlets and doors	
How dead wild birds are reported and handled	

12 Range management

Keep birds within fenced ranges, keep them away from standing water and clean hard surfaces around the houses regularly.

All year

Item	Our arrangements
Range entry points and footwear	
Fencing and how often it is checked	
Grass cutting	
Standing water: how it is fenced off or drained	
Ponds or ditches on or next to the range	
Areas outside pop-holes (hard standing, stone, lime)	
Shelters and enrichment, and how often they are moved	
Vehicles and machinery used on the range: cleaning	
Other livestock grazing the range	

Before letting birds out after housing

Birds must not go out while the farm is in a protection zone or a captive bird (monitoring) controlled zone. The virus can stay infectious in faeces, carcases and feathers for around 50 days, and longer in wet conditions. Before birds go out:

- [ ] Clean and disinfect concrete and hard surfaces.
- [ ] Remove faeces, carcases and feathers, then treat the range with a disinfectant approved for soil and outdoor use.
- [ ] Leave heavily contaminated areas open to sunlight.
- [ ] Fence off or cover standing water and ponds.
- [ ] Check fences and wild bird deterrents.
- [ ] Speak to your vet if you are concerned about the birds' welfare when they go out.

13 Welfare when birds are housed

If birds have to be housed, their welfare must not suffer. Check them more than once a day.

Risk	Our plan
Overcrowding (aerial perches can add space)	
Light (natural where possible; artificial light on a normal day and night pattern)	
Ventilation and temperature (thermometer at bird level; avoid going much above 21°C)	
Litter quality (dry, friable; add clean litter if needed)	
Boredom and feather pecking (straw or shavings bales, scattered grain, dustbathing areas, pecking blocks)	
Food and clean water	
Red mite and other parasites	
Health checks and who to call	

14 Cleaning and disinfection

Use only disinfectants approved for poultry diseases, at the approved dilution. Premises with more than 500 birds must clean and disinfect housing and equipment at the end of each production cycle and before new birds go in.

In Northern Ireland, use a product on DAERA's approved list. Keep disinfectant away from drinking water supplies, streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands, and stop run-off.

Item	Our arrangements
Routine cleaning of yards, aprons and entrances (how often)	
Cleaning between flocks: who does it and what it covers	
Water line cleaning between flocks	
Checking the house is clean before new birds arrive	
COSHH records and safety data sheets kept	

Disinfectants and cleaning products used

Product	Approved for	Used for	Dilution rate

15 Records to keep

Government guidance says to keep daily records of deaths, movements of birds and eggs, feed and water use, and egg production, as well as visitor records. In a disease control zone, you may need to produce them quickly.

Record	Where it is kept	Who keeps it	How long it is kept
Visitors			
Staff attendance			
Vehicles entering the restricted access area			
Daily deaths per house			
Bird and egg movements on and off the farm (dates, numbers, contacts)			
Feed deliveries and use			
Water use			
Egg production			
Foot dip changes			
Pest control			
Cleaning and disinfection			
Medicines and vaccinations			
Manure removal			

Keep a copy of key records off site, so they are available if the farm is placed under restrictions.

16 Routine biosecurity checks

List the checks your staff make, so nothing depends on memory. Edit the examples to fit your farm.

Check	How often	Who
Walk each flock: health, behaviour, deaths, litter		
Dead wild birds on the range and around buildings		
Feed, water and ventilation working		
Foot dips topped up or changed		
Feed spills cleared		
Egg store cleaned after collection		
Fences and gates		
Gutters, roofs and vent proofing		
Bait stations and signs of rodents		
Fly and red mite levels		
Standing water on the range		
Signs at gates and control points		

17 Signs of disease and how to report

Suspected avian influenza must be reported immediately, even if the signs are mild. Failing to report is an offence.

Signs to look for

- Sudden deaths, often in large numbers
- Swollen head, closed or runny eyes
- Blue colouring or swelling of the comb and wattles
- Dullness, lethargy, loss of appetite or a sudden change in water use
- Breathing difficulty, coughing or sneezing
- Diarrhoea or discoloured droppings
- A sudden or significant drop in egg production

Ducks and geese can carry the virus without showing signs.

Nation	Report suspected bird flu to
England	Defra Rural Services Helpline, 03000 200 301
Wales	0300 303 8268
Scotland	Your local APHA Field Services Office
Northern Ireland	DAERA Helpline, 0300 200 7840, or your local Divisional Veterinary Office

> Check these numbers against the government pages linked above before you print the plan.

Our emergency contacts

Contact	Name and phone number
Private vet (day and out of hours)	
APHA or DAERA office	
Biosecurity officer	
Feed supplier	
Egg packer	
Fallen stock collection	
Pest control contractor	

18 Higher-risk periods and disease control zones

Step biosecurity up when the risk rises: during autumn and winter, when bird flu is found in wild birds or poultry nearby, or when a prevention zone or disease control zone is declared.

Situation	What the rules require
Avian influenza prevention zone (AIPZ)	Mandatory biosecurity measures apply to all keepers, with extra measures for premises with more than 500 birds. Housing may be required. Premises must be registered on the kept bird register.
Surveillance zone (at least 10 km)	Record all poultry and eggs entering or leaving. No movement of poultry, other captive birds or mammals on or off the premises without a licence. Do not spread or remove litter, manure or slurry.
Protection zone (at least 3 km)	All surveillance zone rules, plus: keep birds housed; no movement of birds without a licence; eggs need a licence except table eggs sent direct to wholesale or retail; dispose of carcases as the veterinary inspector instructs.
All disease control zones	Follow national biosecurity guidance and any rules a veterinary inspector sets; keep records of anyone who transports or markets poultry or eggs; no bird gatherings.

The exact rules for each zone are in its declaration. Check the official disease zone map and declarations for your area.

What we do when the risk rises

Area	Extra steps we take
Visitors and contractors	
Vehicles and the C&D point	
Foot dips and footwear	
Staff, including relief staff	
Range and housing	
Records and copies kept off site	
Signs at gates and control points	

19 Sources

- Bird flu: how to prevent it and stop it spreading (GOV.UK) – https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bird-flu-avian-influenza-how-to-prevent-it-and-stop-it-spreading
- Bird flu: housing your birds safely (GOV.UK) – https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bird-flu-avian-influenza-housing-your-birds-safely
- Bird flu cases and disease control zones in England (GOV.UK) – https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu-cases-and-disease-control-zones-in-england
- AIPZ biosecurity checklist (GOV.UK) – https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/avian-influenza-prevention-zone-aipz-checklist-for-poultry-and-captive-bird-keepers
- Bird flu: how to spot and report it (GOV.UK) – https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu
- Avian influenza: Scottish Government – https://www.gov.scot/publications/avian-influenza-bird-flu/
- Defra approved disinfectants – https://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk
- Defra approved disinfectant: when and how to use it – https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defra-approved-disinfectant-when-and-how-to-use-it
- DAERA: clinical signs, biosecurity checklist and guidance – https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/clinical-signs-biosecurity-checklist-and-guidance
- DAERA approved disinfectants – https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/approved-disinfectants