



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Government Considerations on Compartmentalisation

Surveillance and Trade: Risk Management

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IABS/WOAH – Vaccination & Surveillance for HPAI in
poultry: Current Situation & Perspectives
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Today's Discussion

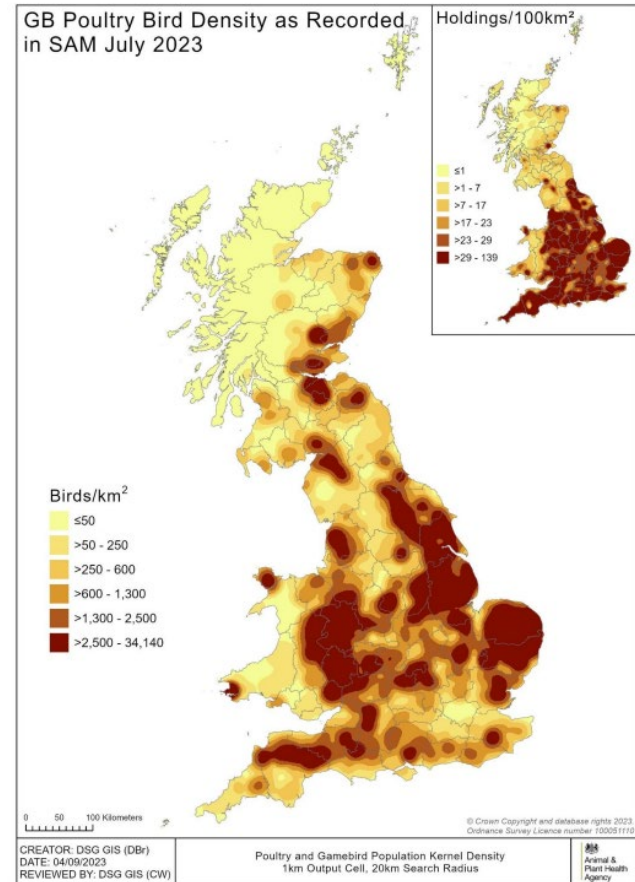
- UK compartment scheme for HPAI & Newcastle Disease
- Why compartmentalisation?
- Sustaining through a serious outbreak
- Advantages & Disadvantages



Demographics and Diversity of the UK Poultry Flock

	Holdings (July 2023)	Usual Stock Nos.
England	53,1388	328,141,957
Scotland	4,032	32,480,502
Wales	3,915	25,085,571
GB Total	61,085	385,708,030

40 million layers
 10 million turkeys
 980m broilers placed per year



Confirmed Outbreaks of HPAI, LPAI and NDV in last 20 years

Year	Outbreaks
2005	July - Newcastle Disease (Surrey)
2006	April – H5N1 HPAI in Wild Swan (Scotland), May – H7N3 LPAI Laying Hens (East of England), Oct - Newcastle Disease (Scotland)
2007	Feb – H5N1 HPAI Turkeys (East of England), Jun – H7N2 LPAI Backyard poultry (Corwen, N Wales / NW England) Nov – H5N1 HPAI Turkeys, Ducks & Geese (East England)
2008	Feb – H5N1 HPAI in Wild Birds (South West England), June – H7N7 HPAI Free Range Poultry (West Midlands, England)
2014	November – H5N8 HPAI (North England)
2015	January – H7N7 LPAI, (South England), July – H7N7 HPAI, (North West England)
2016	January – H5N1 LPAI, (Scotland), December – H5N8 HPAI, (East of England)
2017	Jan -Jun – 12 outbreaks of H5N8 in England & Wales
2019	December - H5N3 LPAI (East of England)
2020	November - H5N2 LPAI (South East England), November - H5N8 HPAI - (16 cases in England & Scotland) December - H5N1 HPAI (N.Yorkshire)
2021	January - H5N8 HPAI - (6 cases England, ales & NI), February - H5N1 HPAI (Glenrothes, Scotland) March – H5N3 LPAI (North West England), April – H5N8 HPAI (North West England)
2022	H5N1 HPAI - 244 cases (England, Scotland, Wales & NI)
2023	H5N1 HPAI – 152 cases (England, Scotland & Wales)
2024	H5N1 HPAI – 1 case (England) (country freedom 29 March 2024)

UK HPAI and ND Compartment scheme

- There are several large multi-national poultry breeding companies based in the UK
- Two businesses have used compartment approval to continue trade even when their establishments have been in HPAI disease restricted zones
- Supports trade in high genetic merit stock
- Benefits to businesses, UK economy and international supply chains
- Needs trust from trading partners that the compartment approval offers sufficient protection
- Reputational risks if compartment disease status is lost



HOME ABOUT US

DEFRA COMPARTMENTS



Compartments for Breeding Poultry – Ensuring Freedom from Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease

The Compartment principle was first proposed by the OIE in 2004 as a means of enabling international trade to continue without the risk of spreading disease. The United Kingdom is the first country to apply the idea to breeding poultry.

The United Kingdom (UK) Compartment scheme provides an assurance that member companies are free from both avian influenza (AI) and Newcastle disease (ND), even at times when there may be an outbreak of one of these diseases within the country.

The essential feature is that Compartmental risks are effectively isolated from all other poultry and wild birds in the UK, by both physical means and management practices. A number of importing countries have agreed that UK Compartments provide sufficient reassurance that approved companies are free from AI/ND, even when there may be a local and controlled outbreak of one of these within the UK, and they are therefore willing to continue imports from the UK.

It is important to emphasise that the UK normally exports breeding poultry on the basis of national freedom from both avian influenza and Newcastle disease according to OIE standards. The Compartment system would be used only when national freedom has been temporarily lost.

The UK Compartment scheme for breeding poultry is an official project run by Defra, and members of the scheme must be inspected and monitored by government veterinary officials.

The rules for UK breeding poultry Compartments are detailed and stringent. The detailed rules are set out in the [Schedules for Member and Schedule for Poultry Farms](#). Further information and instructions about applying for membership are provided on the Defra website along with the [application form](#). The Defra website also contains a list of the premises that are currently approved [GO HERE](#).

COMPARTMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION AGAINST AVIAN INFLUENZA AND NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN POULTRY BREEDING COMPANIES IN GREAT BRITAIN (2023)

[Click box for download](#)

The scheme – approval & maintenance

- Initial approval during peacetime
- Gradual build up
- Maintenance of standards
- Failure
- Recovery



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Compartments
for the protection against
Avian Influenza and
Newcastle Disease
in poultry breeding companies in Great Britain

Date: April 2024

Failure of the compartments – 2023



Single shed on each farm



Severe weather and extreme infection pressure



People-mediated factors



Infection quickly controlled and no spread



Revocation of approvals



Strengthened scheme implemented

The Advantages

- ✓ Long period of successful operation
 - ✓ Effective in maintaining trade & confidence of partners
 - ✓ Partnership working
 - ✓ Benefits to biosecurity even after revocation
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The Disadvantages – and actions to mitigate

Resourcing	UK have only set up one compartment scheme in over a decade – other industry sectors may lack the will or co-ordination to effectively compartmentalise in advance of a disease event	Ensure all prerequisites are in place before embarking Develop a 'Toolbox' containing potential approaches based on practical experiences
	Government resources are not limitless and may need to be diverted to other activities for the wider public good!	Development of Cost-Benefit analysis to support financial resource allocation
	Takes government vet / inspection resource to inspect & maintain – hard to maintain during serious outbreaks where resource is diverted.	
Failure	Compartments can still lose disease freedom during periods of intense infection pressure! No guarantee of immunity from disease - virus only needs to get lucky once. It is too late when the disease arrives! Inspections and lack of cases could breed complacency in operators!	Pre-agreed 'Recovery Plans'. Training – improving public & private sector understanding of international standards, their implementation and raising biosecurity awareness
	If freedom is lost, confidence of trading partners can suffer.	Advocate for proper implementation of WOAHS standards on Compartmentalisation for international trade
Trade	Acceptance of compartments by Trading Partners can take more than two years	Advocate for proper implementation of WOAHS standards on Compartmentalisation for international trade
	Trading partner audits can be time consuming.	

What next?

- Apply the lessons we have learned
 - Continue to define the right level of controls
 - Learn from others – sharing of experience and approaches
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