

Avian influenza prevention zone declared in south-west England

Following a number of detections of avian influenza in poultry and wild and captive birds across Devon, Cornwall and parts of Somerset, the UK's Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer has declared an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across the region to mitigate the risk of further outbreaks of disease occurring.

This means that from midday today (Wednesday 31 August) it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in Devon, Cornwall (including the Isles of Scilly) and parts of Somerset to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks, of whatever type or size. A [map of the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone](#) is available on gov.uk.

Backyard owners with small numbers of poultry including chickens, ducks and geese must take [steps to limit the risk of the disease spreading to their animals](#).

Additionally, keepers with more than 500 birds will need to restrict access for non-essential people on their sites, workers will need to change clothing and footwear before entering bird enclosures and site vehicles will need to be cleaned and disinfected regularly to limit the risk of the disease spreading.

The UK Health Security Agency continue to advise that the risk to public health from the virus is very low and the Food Standards Agency advice remains unchanged, that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for UK consumers. Properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat.

The UK has faced its largest ever outbreak of bird flu with over 130 cases confirmed across the country since late October. The introduction of this regional AIPZ comes after the disease was detected in captive birds at nine premises across the south-west region since last month, as well as several cases in wild seabirds.

UK's Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer Richard Irvine said:

Following a number of detections of avian influenza we have declared an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone across Cornwall, Devon and parts of Somerset. This means that all bird keepers in the region must take action now to both prevent disease getting in to flocks and it spreading any further.

Whether you keep just a few birds or thousands, you are now legally required to introduce higher biosecurity standards on your farm or small holding. It is in your interests to do so in order to protect your birds from this highly infectious disease.

The introduction of an AIPZ follows the recent increase in cases of bird flu in poultry and other captive birds in the area and increased reports of mass mortality in wild birds.

The AIPZ now in force across Devon, Cornwall and parts of Somerset does not include a requirement to house birds. However, this is being kept under constant review. Further disease control measures will be based on the latest scientific evidence and veterinary advice.

The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) means bird keepers across the south-west region of England must:

- cleanse and disinfect clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry and captive birds – if practical, use disposable protective clothing
- reduce the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and captive birds are kept, to minimise contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and use effective vermin control
- thoroughly cleanse and disinfect housing on a continuous basis
- keep fresh disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points
- minimise direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds and wild birds, including making sure all feed and water is not accessible to wild birds
- prevent access by poultry to ponds and watercourses and ensure that birds are kept in fenced or enclosed areas

The prevention zone will be in place until further notice, and will be kept under regular review as part of the government's work to monitor and manage the risks of bird flu.

Poultry keepers and members of the public should report dead wild birds to Defra's national dead wild bird helpline on 03459 33 55 77 (please select option 7) and keepers should report suspicion of disease in their birds to APHA on 03000 200 301. Keepers should familiarise themselves with our [avian flu advice](#).

Defra has also set out practical guidance to support land managers, the public and ornithological and environmental organisations in their response to the growing threat of avian influenza to wild birds. The '[Mitigation Strategy for Avian Influenza in Wild Birds in England and Wales](#)', also announced today, sets out how these groups, together with the government and its delivery partners, can mitigate the impact of avian influenza on wild bird populations whilst protecting public health, the wider environment and the rural economy.

Three new Trustees appointed to The Victoria and Albert Museum

Professor Polly Blakesley

Appointed for a four year term commencing 05 September 2022

Rosalind Polly Blakesley is Professor of Russian and European Art at the University of Cambridge, a Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and co-founder of the Cambridge Courtauld Russian Art Centre. A Syndic of the Fitzwilliam Museum and Trustee of the Samuel Courtauld Trust, she has also served on the boards of the National Portrait Gallery, Kettle's Yard and the Hamilton Kerr Institute. Exhibitions she has worked on include An Imperial Collection at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington DC; International Arts and Crafts at the V&A; and Russia and the Arts at the National Portrait Gallery, part of a groundbreaking exchange with the State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow. Awards include the Pushkin Medal and, for her book, The Russian Canvas, the Art Newspaper Russia Best Book Award and the Pushkin House Russian Book Prize. She is now working on the research project Russia, Empire and the Baltic Imagination, supported by a Major Research Fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust.

Rusty Elvidge

Appointed for a four year term commencing 05 September 2022

Rusty has been a collector since he was at Bristol University and used to buy antique silver and jewellery at auction rooms and fairs in the West Country. He has also collected Regency furniture, English watercolours and over the last 20 years paintings by the Bloomsbury set, Modern British artists, as well as Contemporary Art and Pottery. He lives in a Grade 1 listed house which he has restored. Rusty has worked in finance all his career: at Salomon Brothers on the trading floor, then at Credit Suisse heading the global foreign exchange business, and over the last decade has been on the the Private Banking side as financial adviser to some of the most successful UK based entrepreneurs. Rusty has worked in Japan, Switzerland and the US, though predominantly in the UK where he is based full time.

Zewditu Gebreyohanes

Appointed for a four year term commencing 05 September 2022

Zewditu Gebreyohanes is the Director of Restore Trust and Executive Editor of History Reclaimed. She was formerly Head of the History Matters unit at Policy Exchange. In 2020 Zewditu served on the government commission for housing and architecture 'Building Better, Building Beautiful' as an assistant to its Chair, the late Professor Sir Roger Scruton. She graduated from King's College London in 2020 with a degree in Philosophy, Politics and

Economics.

Remuneration and Governance Code

Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum are not remunerated. This appointment has been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's [Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Professor Blakesley and Rusty Elvidge did not declare any political activity. Zewditu Gebreyohanes declared having canvassed for the Conservative party within the last five years.

[Helen Birchenough reappointed to Arts Council England](#)

News story

The Secretary of State has reappointed Helen Birchenough as South West Area Chair of Arts Council England for 4 years commencing 5 December 2022.



Helen has always worked with creative people. Her early career was in advertising and brand development and she soon added a number of voluntary roles to her portfolio. She was a trustee and Chair of Salisbury Playhouse from 2003 – 2012 and of the Salisbury International Arts Festival from 2016. She was a key part of the team that merged these two organisations and the Salisbury Arts Centre to form Wiltshire Creative.

Helen chaired Wiltshire College, a complex multi-site further education and higher education college through a period of transformational change. She also chaired the education grants panel for Wiltshire Community Foundation. Helen is a board advisor for Messums Wiltshire, the pioneering multi-purpose

gallery and arts centre based in a 13th century tithe barn in Wiltshire and with other spaces in London and the North. She is a Deputy Lieutenant in Wiltshire.

Helen represents ACE National Council on the Acceptance in Lieu and Cultural Gifts Panel.

Remuneration and Governance Code

Area Chairs of Arts Council England are offered remuneration of £6,400 per year. This appointment has been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's [Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Helen Birchenough has declared no significant political activity.

Published 31 August 2022

[Kate Grimley Evans appointed to the ACNRA](#)

News story

The Secretary of State has appointed Kate Grimley Evans to the Advisory Council on National Records and Archives (ACNRA) for 3 years.



Appointed from 15 September 2022 until 14 September 2025.

Kate is a solicitor who specialises in Data Protection and Freedom of Information. She was previously Head of Information Law at a large law firm and now practises on a consultancy basis, most recently through the law firms

Kesteven Partners and Bates Wells. Kate is also the Managing Director of her own company which specialises in information law training and compliance audits. In April 2020, Kate was appointed as a judicial office holder, carrying out a part time role as a Fee Paid Member of the Upper Tribunal assigned to the Administrative Appeals Chamber (Information Rights Jurisdiction) and First Tier Tribunal General Regulatory Chamber (Information Rights Jurisdiction). Kate qualified as a solicitor in 2004 and started practising in the area of information law in 2011. Since then, she has acted for a wide range of clients with a focus on the charity and education sectors. She is the author of the leading guidance on data protection and information law matters for the museum sector.

Remuneration and Governance Code

Members of the ACNRA are offered remuneration of £386 per day. This appointment has been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's [Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Kate Grimley Evans has not declared any significant political activity.

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Strict new controls on pork and pork products to protect Britain's pig sector against African swine fever

Strict new controls restricting the movement of pork and pork products into Great Britain to help safeguard Britain's pigs from the threat of African swine fever (ASF) have been announced today (Wednesday 31 August 2022).

African swine fever poses no risk to human health, but is a highly contagious disease for pigs and wild boar. In recent months it has been spreading in mainland Europe leading to the deaths of thousands of pigs and causing significant disruption to the meat trade. With no vaccine available, the disease poses a significant risk to our domestic pig herd and our long-term ability to export pork and other pork products around the globe.

The new control, which comes into force from Thursday 1 September 2022, will strengthen the requirements for bringing pork and pork products into Great Britain from the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association states. It will no longer be legal to bring pork or pork products weighing

over two kilograms, unless they are produced to the EU's commercial standards. This does not apply to commercial imports, which remain unaffected by the control.

This action comes following the publication of a [new risk assessment](#), conducted by the Animal and Plant Health Agency, which recognises that the chance that the ASF virus may be brought into Great Britain stands at 'medium risk'. It found that the most likely way the virus could be introduced to Great Britain is by a member of the public bringing pork or pork products back from an ASF-affected country. This measure will help limit possibly infected pig meat being brought into Great Britain through various means, such as in passengers' luggage or in vehicles.

Biosecurity Minister Lord Richard Benyon said:

"An outbreak of African swine fever is one of the biggest threats our pig industry faces today. We are not complacent and this decisive and proportionate action will stop the entry of pork products that pose the greatest risk. It is essential we maintain the highest levels of biosecurity and all visitors to the UK will need to abide by these new regulations."

UK's Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer Richard Irvine said:

"If African swine fever ever reached the UK it would have a severe and damaging impact on our pigs and pig industry. A single outbreak of this highly infectious disease would also harm relations with our trading partners and threaten the livelihoods of thousands of our pig farmers."

"We are taking this action to limit the risk of disease spreading by banning people bringing in high-risk pork and pork products that could carry this virus until further notice. Everyone can do their bit to help stop animal diseases spreading to this country by simply not bringing pork and other meats onto our shores."

Welsh Government Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, Lesley Griffiths said:

"African swine fever is a highly fatal viral disease which is a major threat to our pig industry. Although not present in the UK, it is spreading across Europe and this timely action is important in helping to prevent the disease reaching our shores. We continue to monitor the international situation very closely and review our disease control tools."

Everyone can help to stop the spread of ASF to the UK by doing the following:

- If you are visiting non-EU countries, you must not bring any pork or pork products back to the UK.
- If you are visiting EU or EFTA countries (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein), you must not bring pork or pork products which are over 2kg unless they meet EU commercial production standards.
- Disposing of leftovers or food waste in secure bins that pigs or wildlife cannot access.
- Farmers, the public and members of the food industry should practice

high biosecurity standards, including never feeding catering waste, kitchen scraps or meat products to pigs, which is illegal and can spread the disease.

The government continually monitors disease outbreaks around the world to assess whether there may be risks for the UK and takes action to limit the risk of the disease reaching our shores.