



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Avian Influenza Roadshow 2016

Aims and Objectives

- To explain APHA's role in the investigation and handling of a case of Avian Influenza (or other Notifiable Avian Disease).
- To describe the impact on the affected holding and the wider ramifications of an outbreak.
- To set out the principles of cleansing and disinfection.
- To promote good biosecurity.

Protect your business

Understand the risks

- Consider what this means for your business in relation to:
 - Your birds – housing, free range, hatchery, egg packing
 - Your environment:
 - People
 - Vehicles and equipment
 - Bedding, feed and water
 - Local area – wild birds, waterways



Maintain good biosecurity

- Check biosecurity guidance on GOV.UK for key points and further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/disease-prevention-for-livestock-farmers#biosecurity-measures>

Protect your business

Biosecurity measures include:

- **Cleansing and disinfecting** – protective clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles *before* and *after* contact with poultry using an approved disinfectant at the appropriate concentration
- **Minimising potential contamination** – from manure, slurry and other products that could carry disease, by reducing movements of people, vehicles or equipment into and from areas where poultry are kept
- **Cleansing and disinfecting housing** – do this thoroughly at the end of a cycle
- **Providing disinfectant and cleaning material at farm entrances** – so essential visitors can disinfect themselves before entering and leaving premises
- **Minimising contact between poultry and wild birds**

Remain vigilant

Testing for exclusion scheme

- Defra, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and APHA offer testing for exclusion of Notifiable Avian Disease (NAD) to poultry keepers
- Can help poultry keepers detect / rule-out NAD early.

Report suspicion to Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

- Anyone in possession of any bird or bird carcase (excluding a wild bird or wild bird carcase) which they suspect may be infected with a NAD must **immediately** notify APHA:
 - in England by calling 03000 200 301
 - In Wales by calling 0300 303 8268
 - In Scotland by calling the relevant local APHA office.

APHA – Report / Consultation Case Protocol

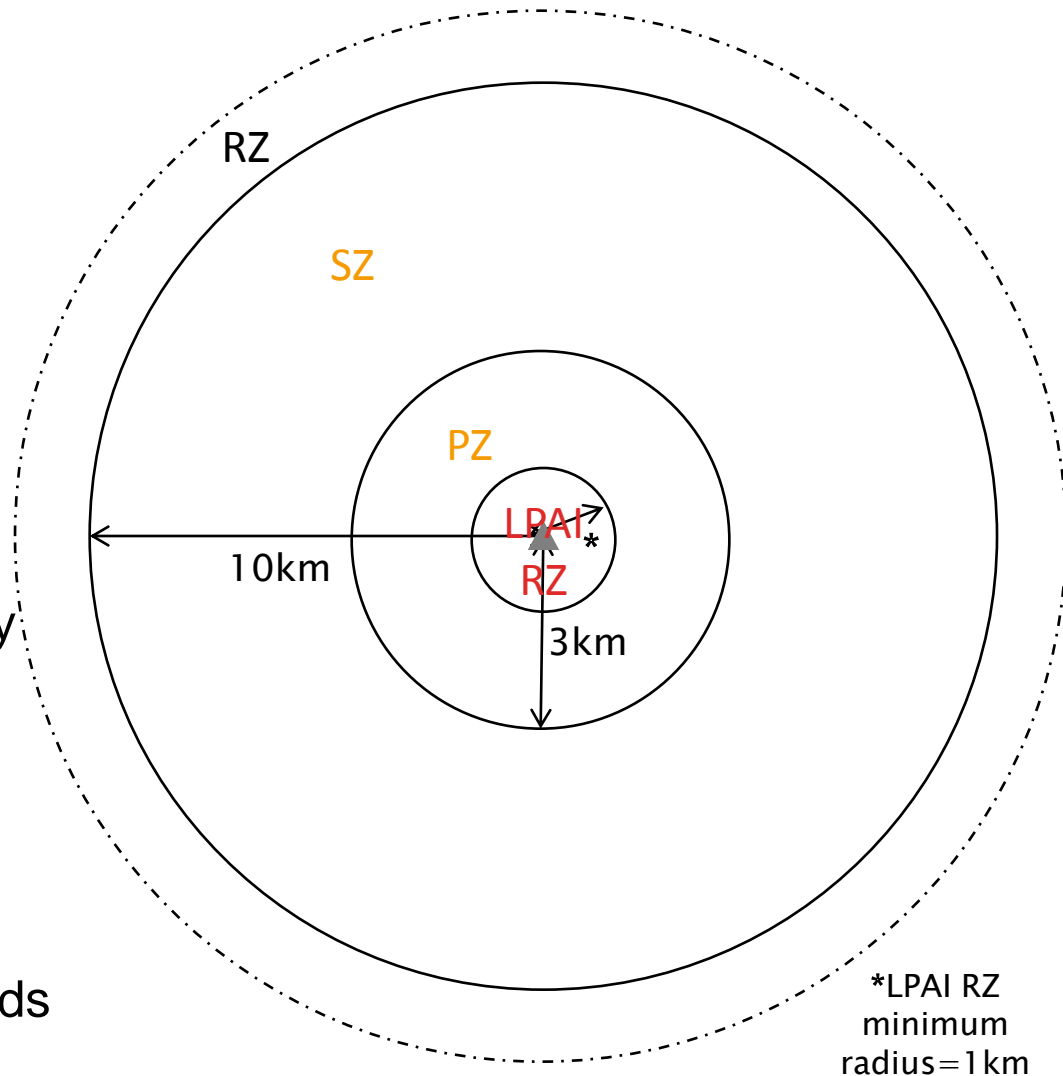
- **Suspicion of disease.** Owner, private vet and the laboratory are the most frequent sources of reports. From back yard flocks to multi shed and multi site enterprises the principles of APHA response are the same.
- **Report Case procedures.** APHA field staff visit holdings where suspicion is raised. Holdings are restricted from the time a decision is taken to investigate. Visit includes a clinical examination of birds, gathering history, assessing records and possibly sampling whilst adhering to strict biosecurity.
- **EXD 40 report completed by APHA vet .** Data gathered includes disease history, movements (on/off) of animals/feed/bedding, staff numbers and their involvement etc.
- **Timeline for restrictions / sample results:** 1st set of preliminary results expected within 12hrs of arrival at lab but holding can be restricted for 5 days or longer awaiting a final negative result.

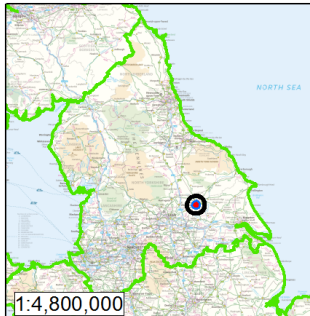
Infected Premises (IP) - Actions

- Positive Sample Results: Notification to the relevant CVO with resulting declaration to cull (note that the CVO also has ability to “slaughter on suspicion”). Holding then declared an IP.
- Creation of a Strategic, Tactical and Operational level approach.
- Operational level may include both an Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC) and Forward Operating Base (FOB).
- Operationally the aims are to:
 - **Prevent spread:** Continued restrictions and movement/gathering prohibitions, zone creation etc
 - **Control IP:** cull and biosecure disposal of infected/susceptible birds and C&D
 - **Identify at Risk:** Possible source and spread origin and further destinations of virus.

Control Strategy – movement restrictions

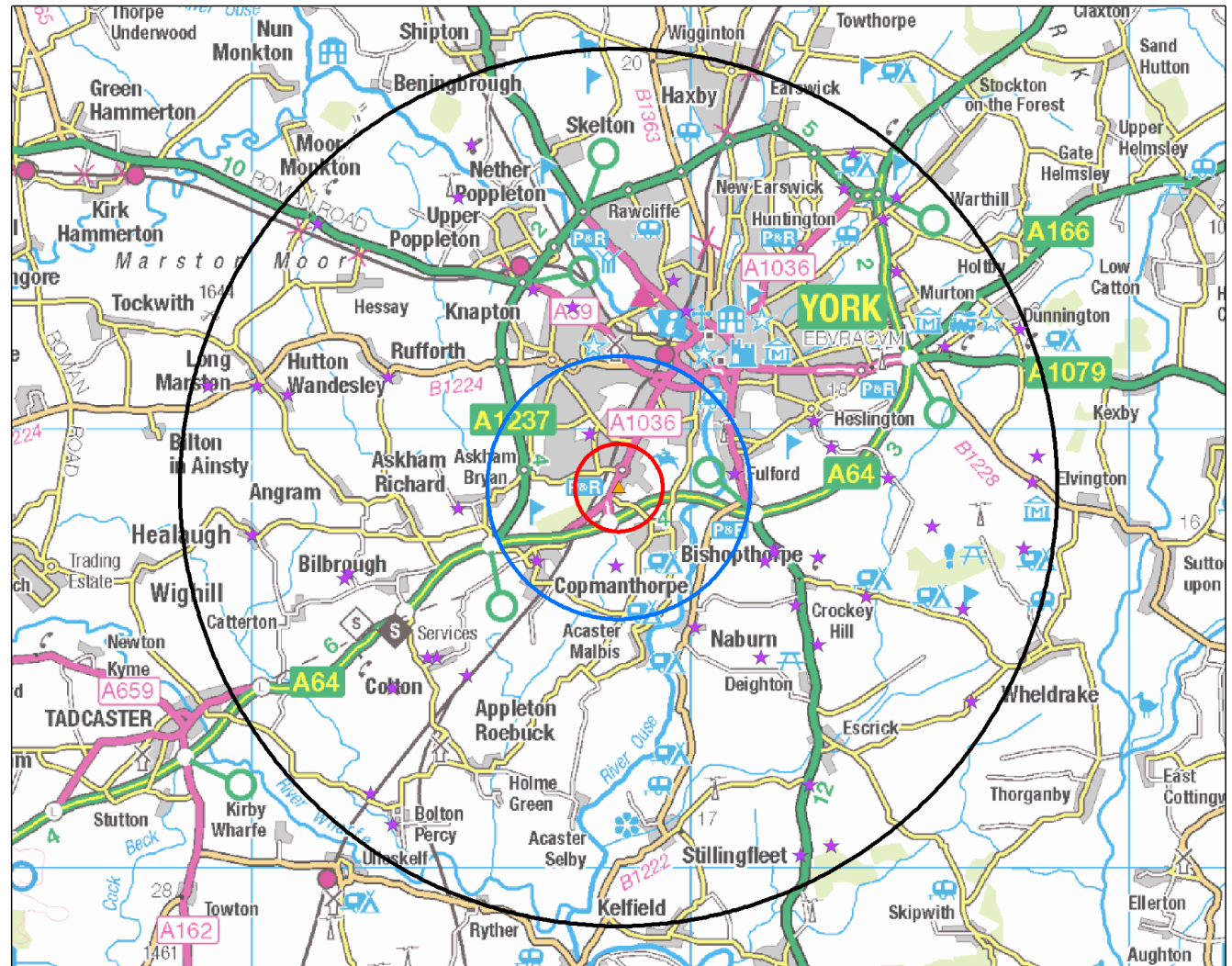
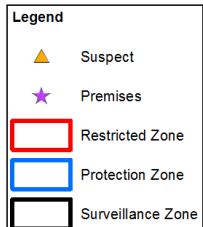
- Record keeping
- Housing or isolation
- Movement restrictions
 - Poultry
 - Other captive birds
 - Mammals
 - Eggs
 - Meat
 - By products
 - Wild game products
 - Poultry litter, manure, slurry
- Fresh meat and meat product requirements
- Biosecurity
- Ban on bird gatherings
- Ban on the release of game birds



OFFICIAL

Data Source: SAM

Premises in 10Km exclude premises in 3Km
 Premises in 3Km exclude premises in 1Km
 The 1Km Zone only applies to AI



Scale - 1:90,000



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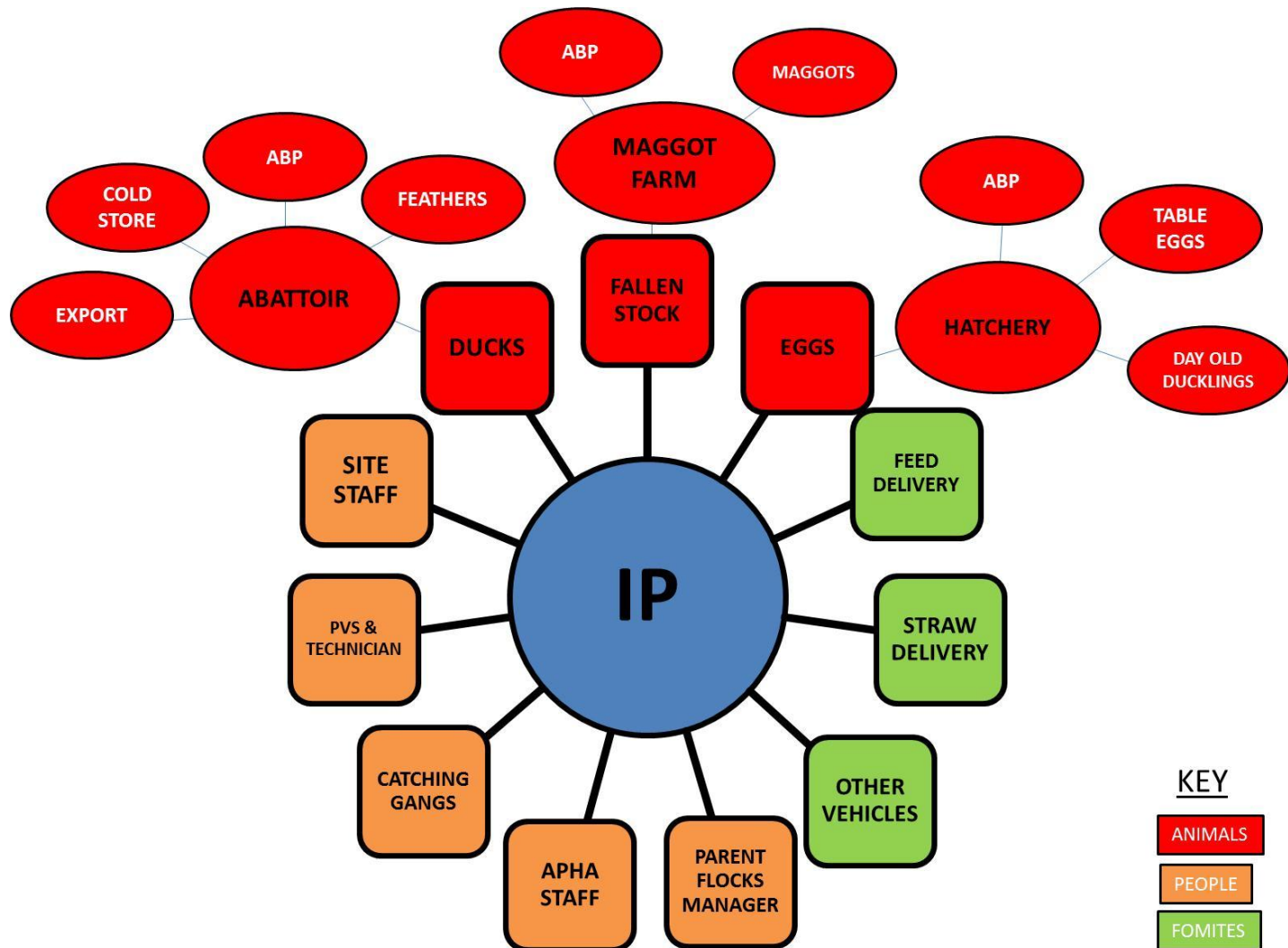
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Control Zones (Protection, Surveillance and Restricted Zones)

- A slaughterhouse, hatchery, egg packing centre, large poultry holding or backyard flock are all affected by being in a zone - partly or fully.
- Restrictions: All holdings within the PZ and SZ will be contacted and advised of their location in relation to a zone. This will guide them on permitted and prohibited movements. The guidance is also provided in writing.
- Duration: Dependent on the assessment of all relevant holdings within a zone, including clinical inspections, the results of statistical sampling and a minimum time period after completion of preliminary C & D on the IP. There may be instances where a holding sits within two or more overlapping zones.
- Zones may change during an outbreak, dependent on disease spread

Disease Investigations



Concurrent Actions

- **Foot Patrols in PZ and SZ and examination of birds**
- **Tracings:** Birds (including eggs), people and equipment (incl vehicles) all pose a risk for transmission of disease to different extents. All need to be prioritised and investigated.
- **Surveillance:** The creation of zones around an IP permits an investigation into the possible extent of disease spread within this area. With all relevant holdings to be accounted for.
- **Licensing:** The restrictions on the movement of risk items e.g. birds, meat, eggs has implications for holdings within and outside a zone.
- It may not be possible to allow all requested movements.

Infected Premises – Valuation

- Valuation is performed using Poultry Rate Cards
- Contract provides capacity for production of additional cards for new species (e.g. HPAI Driffield 2014).
- A Framework Agreement exists for Valuers where rate cards cannot be used.
- The Framework Agreement also provides for 'Monitor Valuers' to ensure consistency of valuation.
- Compensation will only be paid for healthy birds
- No compensation will be paid for consequential losses.
- Keeper can dispute the valuation within 14 days.

Infected Premises - Culling

- The method used depends on species and number of animals
- Must comply with WATOK legislation
- Carried out under APHA supervision to verify this
- Detailed records kept to allow audit by EU
- Air Exclusion Zones instigated in some instances
- Can you provide catchers?



Infected Premises – Disposal

- The carcasses are removed from the site and transported for disposal in bio-secure, leak-tested trailers.
- The wagons and their drivers are approved under Dangerous Goods legislation (ADR).
- The route to disposal is agreed with the Police and the wagons are escorted.
- Waste is rendered or incinerated at approved disposal facilities
- Disposal plants subject to stringent C&D



Infected Premises – Cleansing and Disinfection

- APHA undertakes preliminary disinfection
- 24 hrs must pass before re-accessing areas
- Keeper undertakes Final (Secondary) C&D
- Scope set out in Order which transposes the Directive
- C&D must be proportionate to risk
- Any measures should protect human health, animal health & minimise environmental impact
- APHA specifies what must be done - not how to do it.



Secondary Cleansing and Disinfection and the AI Directive

- The cleansing, disinfection and treatment of holdings and any materials or substances therein which are contaminated or likely to be contaminated with avian influenza viruses must be carried out under official supervision in accordance with the instructions of the official veterinarian
- Any land or pastures used by poultry or other captive birds on a holding where avian influenza has been confirmed are not used by poultry or other captive birds until the competent authority is satisfied that any avian influenza virus present has been eliminated or inactivated. Usually time is used instead of active treatment

Secondary Cleansing and Disinfection

Manure and used bedding must be removed and treated. Grease and dirt must be removed from all surfaces by the application of a degreasing agent, and the surfaces:

- cleansed with water;
 - after washing with cold water, further spraying with disinfectant must be applied;
 - after seven days the holding must be treated with a degreasing agent, rinsed with water, sprayed with disinfectant and rinsed again with water.
-
- Significant quantities of waste water and used PPE will be generated throughout these operations. You need to liaise with the relevant environmental protection agency!

Secondary C&D

- Houses may need to have remedial work to be carried out in addition to the cleansing and disinfection
- Rodents must be controlled as part of the work

Litter

Manure and used bedding shall either:

- undergo a steam treatment at a temperature of at least 70 °C;
- be destroyed by burning;
- be buried deep enough to prevent access by wild birds and other animals; or
- be stacked to heat, sprayed with disinfectant and left for at least 42 days on site or at another site;

Litter Disposal Options

- The competent authority may authorise the transportation of manure, litter and bedding likely to be contaminated to either an approved treatment plant where a treatment ensuring the destruction of any influenza virus is carried out, or for intermediate storage before destruction or treatment
- Sealed vehicles need to be used if litter is moved off site and ADR regulations apply.
- Licences must be obtained for movements off site from APHA

Waste water Options

- Proposals must be agreed with the relevant environment agency (Environment Agency in England, Natural Resources Wales – NRW or SEPA in Scotland)
- The use of disinfectant may mean disposal of the waste water via a sewer needs to be approved
- The use of disinfectant may mean the waste water cannot be spread on land and care is needed to avoid contaminating watercourses including ditches

Repercussions if not Performed Correctly

- Reputational damage to the UK
- Further impacts and restrictions to international trade through delaying country freedom
- If disease recurs the Restriction, Protection and Surveillance zones will be re-imposed – meaning an impact on those businesses in the area
- The premises will revert to Infected Premises status – all susceptible species will be culled and the whole process starts again!

Restocking Principles

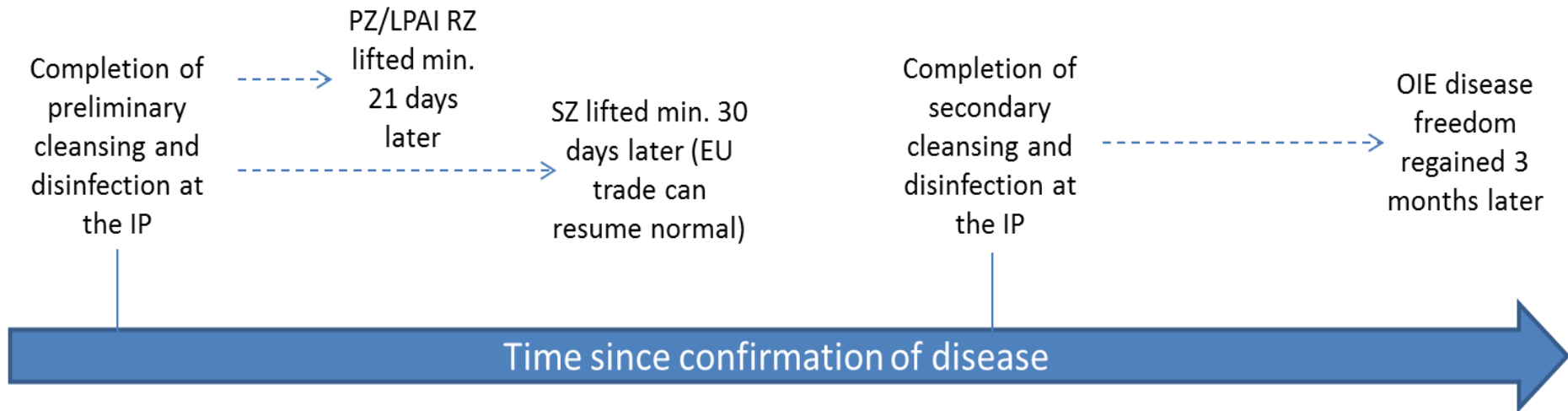
- Cannot take place until 21 days following completion of secondary C&D
- All houses must be restocked. The alternative is houses remain empty for 12 months from completion of primary C&D.
- Similar levels of stocking are required. Any variations need APHA agreement.
- All movements of birds brought on must be licensed on by APHA.

Restocking Period

- Birds brought on must be tested before arrival or on arrival at owner's expense (including laboratory charges and private vet fees).
- Any illness must be reported to APHA. Any birds which die must be tested at owner's expense.
- No birds can leave premises during the 21 day period.
- Birds are retested at end of the 21 day period then if results are negative restocking has been completed successfully.
- Restrictions can then be lifted from the restocked premises.

After an outbreak

Disease freedom from the World Organisation for Animal Health cannot be regained by UK until 3 months after the completion of secondary C&D



Further Information

- Biosecurity guidance:
www.gov.uk/avian-influenza-bird-flu#biosecurity-guidance
<http://www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza>
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00492296.pdf>
- The Notifiable Avian Disease Control Strategy for Great Britain:
<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/notifiable-avian-disease-control-strategy-2015>
- Testing for NAD exclusion scheme:
<http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/nad/index.htm>
- APHA Text alert system:
http://animalhealth.system-message.co.uk/AH_subscribe_index.php

**Thank You For
Listening**