

Avian Influenza lines to take 17 November 2025

Dead Wild Birds

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been detected in swans at four locations across Northern Ireland (NI) – Newtownards, Armagh, Newry and Dungannon. This follows four confirmations in kept birds across NI.

The [latest situation](#) is continually updated on the DAERA website.

DAERA's primary function is the control of avian influenza (AI) in poultry and captive bird flocks and it is not involved in control of the disease in wild species. DAERA collects dead wild birds for AI surveillance purposes to help us understand if, and when the virus is present in NI and how it is distributed geographically. Once HPAI has been detected in a specific area, further testing is not required and therefore, not all birds will be collected.

Do not pick up or touch sick, dying or dead birds, and keep pets away from them. If you find dead waterfowl (swans, geese, or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey report them using the DAERA Dead Wild Bird Online Reporting Tool on the DAERA Avian Influenza Hub at the following link.

[DAERA Dead Wild Bird Online Reporting Tool | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#)

Reports will be assessed and a decision made on whether to collect and sample the carcass for AI. Where dead wild birds are not required for surveillance purposes it is important to note that the routine collection of dead wild birds and their disposal, if deemed necessary, rests with the landowner.

If you find any other single dead birds, or dead garden birds, these do not need to be reported to DAERA.

Sick or Dying Wild Birds

Animals that are considered to be wild, that being that they are not under the care or control of any person, are not required under legislation to be provided for in terms of immediate veterinary treatment nor intervention from landowners.

If you find a sick or dying wild bird, these can be reported to the landowner. It is their decision to determine any further course of action.

DAERA officials remain available to provide advice and guidance as required by the local councils, other landowners and representatives from organisations that manage publicly owned land on the need to address sick or dying birds on land under your responsibility including the disposal of any carcasses found.

DAERA continues to communicate key messages in conjunction with the Public Health Agency, which has advised that human infections with HPAI are rare as it is primarily a disease of birds and the risk to the health of the public is very low.

The current public guidelines from the PHA are as follows:

- do not pick up or touch sick, dying or dead poultry or wild birds, and keep pets away from them;
- avoid contact with surfaces contaminated with bird faeces;
- avoid untreated bird feathers (such as those found in the environment) and other bird waste;
- maintain good personal hygiene with regular hand washing with soap and use of alcohol-based hand rubs.

Furthermore, the Food Standards Agency has advised that AI poses a very low food safety risk for UK consumers, and that properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat.

Further advice and guidance can be found on the Department's website at the below link

[Wild Birds and Advice for the Public November 2025 | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#)

Please contact ADC@daera-ni.gov.uk if you have any further queries.