



World Organisation
for Animal Health



Zoning and compartmentalization to facilitate safe trade:

The role of the Veterinary Services

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**Sub -regional training workshop on zoning and compartmentalisation
in the facilitation of safe trade, 28-30 April 2026**



The relevance of zoning and compartments



Globalised trade: increased disease & economic risk



TADs potential to disrupt trade rapidly



Country trade bans cause disproportionate disruption



Need for risk-based approaches that align with WOHAI standards



Objectives

- Clarify the concept of zoning vs compartmentalization
- Describe the role of the Vet Services in:
 - Deciding which approach to apply
 - Creating policies and national plans
 - Their role in operating these arrangements



Avian Influenza Prevention Zone Keepers in Shropshire must house their birds

Due to the increase in cases across England and the outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Shropshire, APHA has introduced **mandatory housing measures** in Shropshire from Monday the 27th of January.

See more on GOV.UK:



www.shropshire.gov.uk
General Enquiries: 0345 678 9000



Zoning: The WOAAH concept

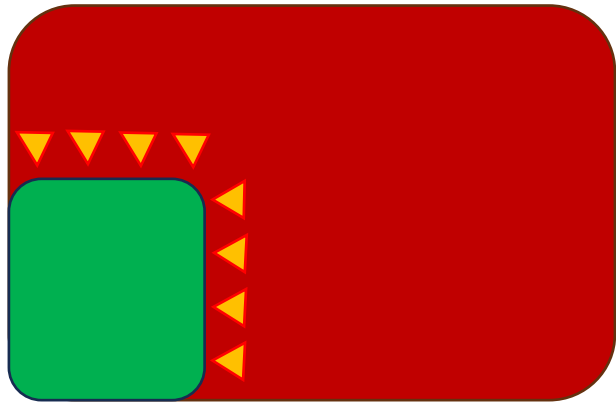
- Subpopulation as defined by geographical boundaries
- Distinct AH status
- Applied before or during outbreak
- Static or Dynamic in nature
- Disease control purpose, may also facilitate safe trade



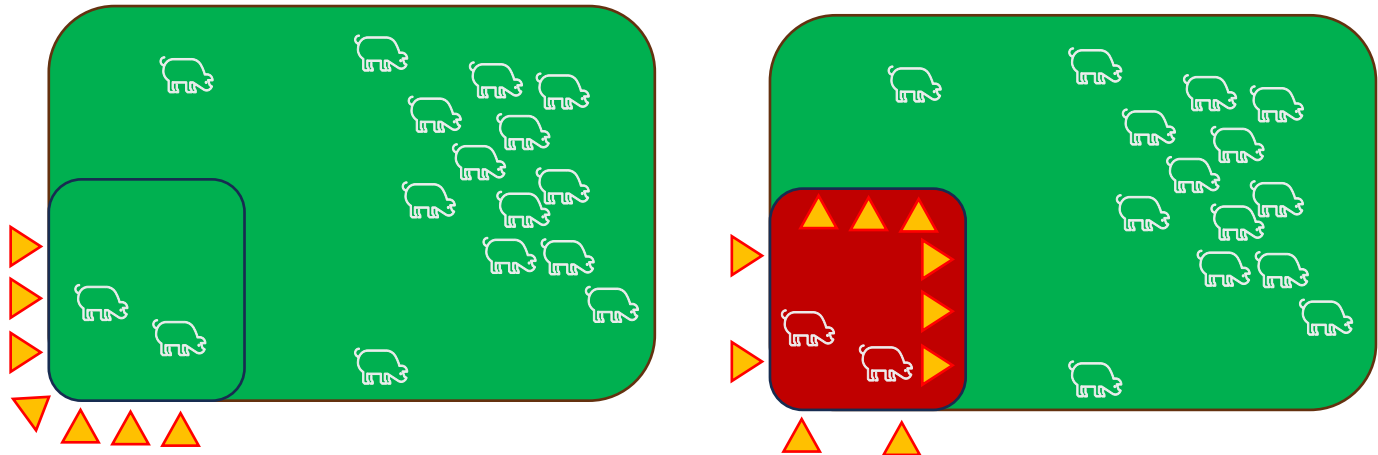


The WOAAH concept: Free zones

Free zone



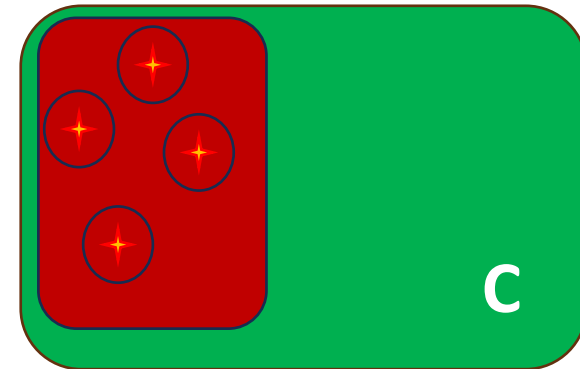
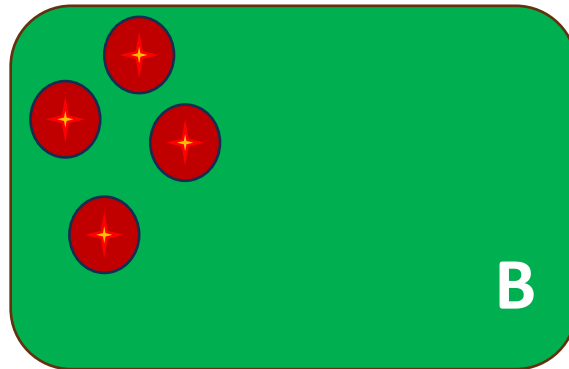
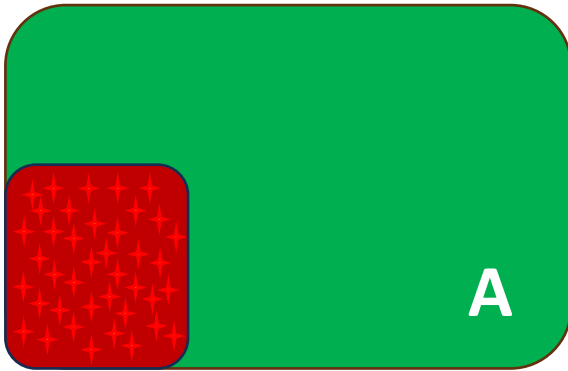
Protection zone





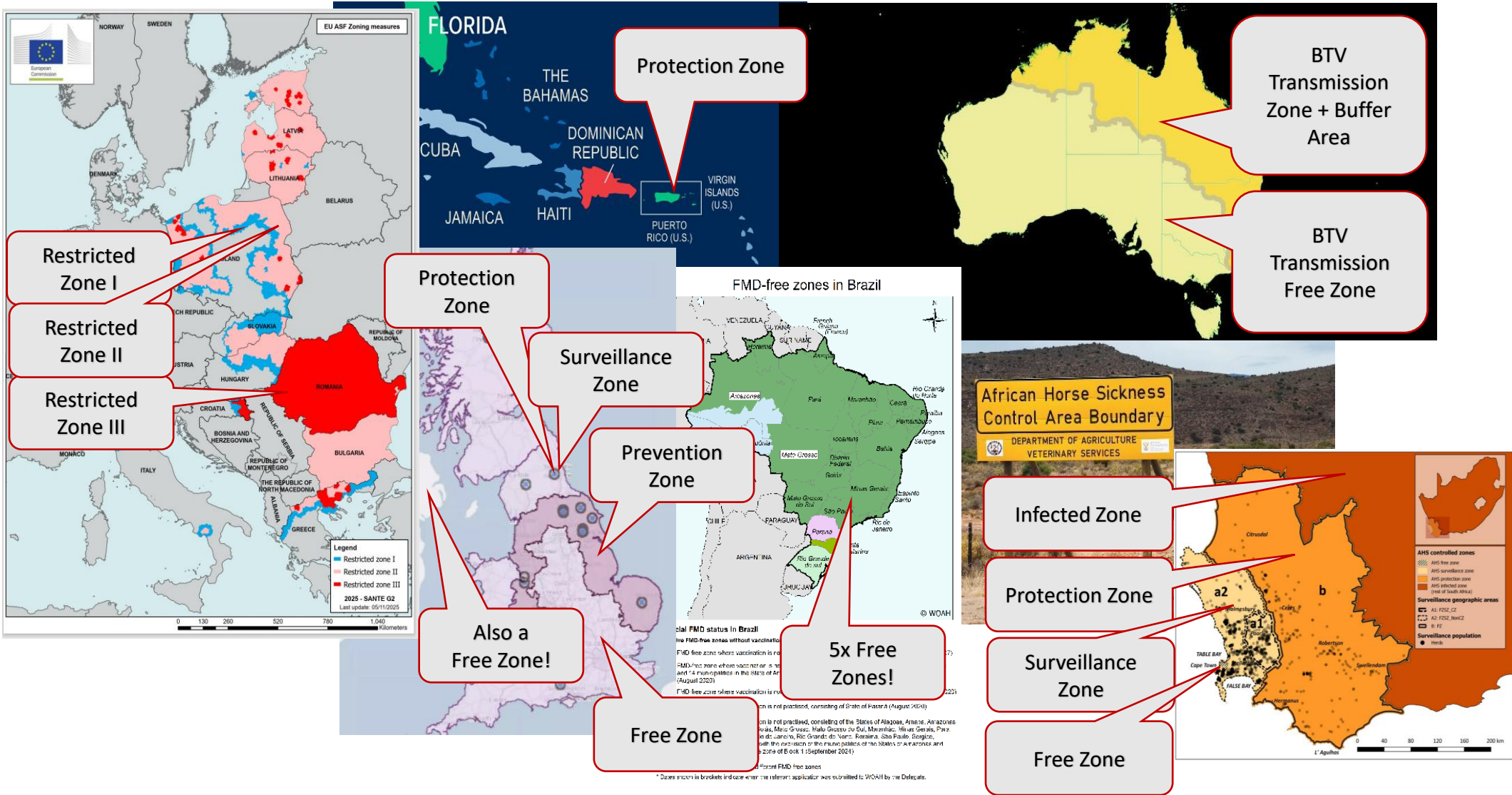
The WOH concept: Infected zones

- A: Endemic → Free
- B: Incursion to free country
- C: Containment zone - to retain freedom status of rest of country





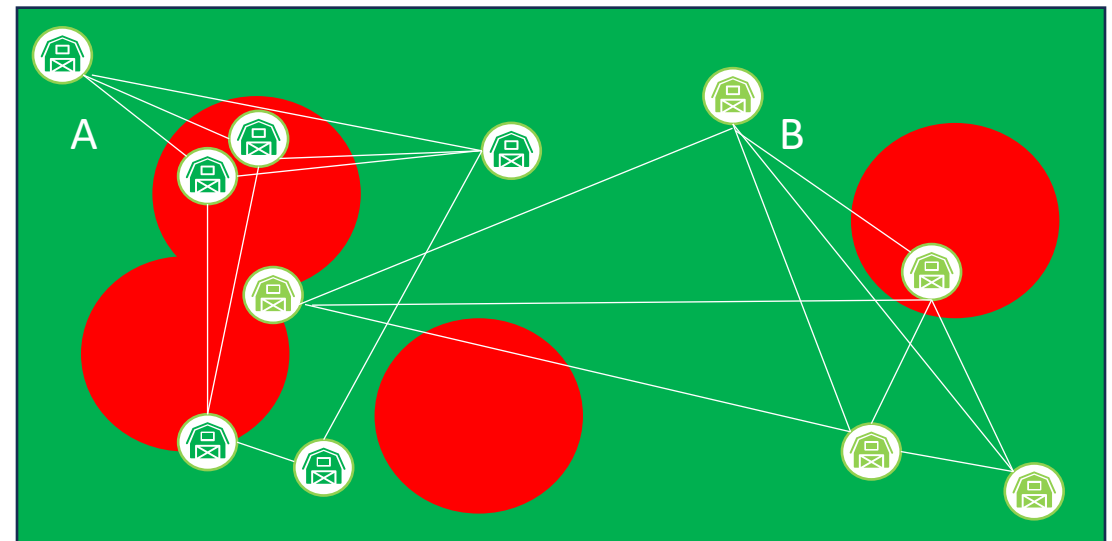
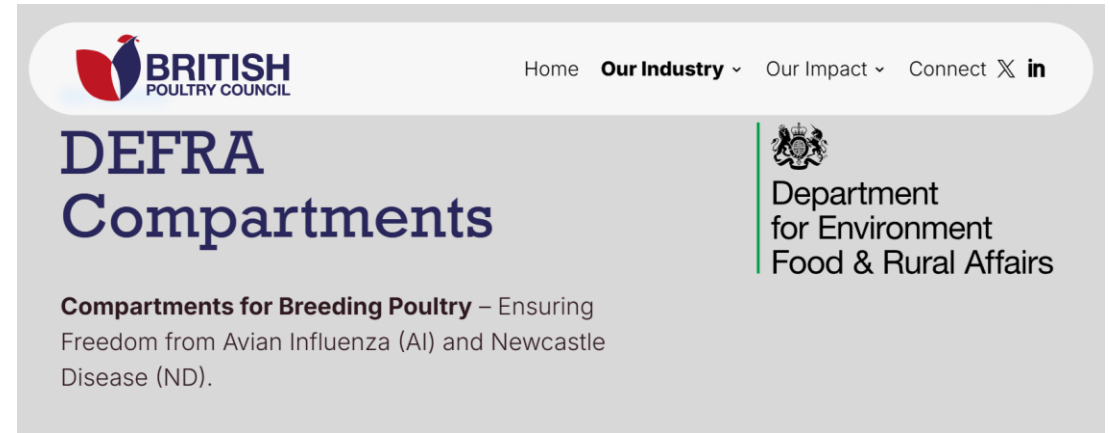
Zoning “IRL” 🤔





Compartmentalisation

- Defined by management measures – NOT geographical boundaries
- Single site or multiple locations
- High levels of biosecurity, surveillance and traceability
- More suited for intensive production systems
- Government / industry collaboration
- Predominantly trade purpose





Zoning vs Compartments: side-by-side

Zoning	Compartments
• Defined using geographical boundaries and distance	• Defined by management practices and biosecurity
• More generic approach	• Tailored to disease and production systems
• Typically Government led	• Typically industry led
• Mostly a disease control measure	• Mostly a prevention measure to enable trade
• Mostly defined in response to outbreaks	• Must be set up in absence of disease
• Most costs fall to Governments	• Costs usually borne by industry



Shared benefits



Allow for targeted measures to control or prevent disease



Reduce trade disruptions by enabling (or maintaining) safe trade



Allow for demonstration of guarantees and assurances



Facilitate recovery or preservation of animal health status in the face of disease outbreaks



Transparency + Communication = Trust

- Demonstrate fitness for purpose
- Provide adequate resources to implement and maintain measures
- Robust surveillance and data management
- Consistent controls and reporting
- Practices need to be established in “peace time”
- Planning, review and contingency exercises



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News story

Bird flu (avian influenza): latest situation in England

Find out about the latest bird flu situation in England and guidance for bird keepers and the public.

From: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#) and [Animal and Plant Health Agency](#)



Role of the Veterinary Services

- Formulation of evidence based national policy
- Overall coordination and supervision
- Implementation, enforcement and assurance
- Surveillance and reporting
- Collaboration with industry
- Communication





Planning and Coordination

- **Design framework and draft national policy in line with WOAH standards**
- **Use robust scientific evidence and cost-benefit analysis**
- **Provide guidance for effective and consistent implementation**
- **Work with trading partners to ensure recognition**



Implementation, Enforcement and Assurance

- **Legal framework and national policy is required for effective implementation**
- **Movement controls**
- **Licensing and derogations**
- **Oversight, verification, enforcement and sanctions**



Surveillance

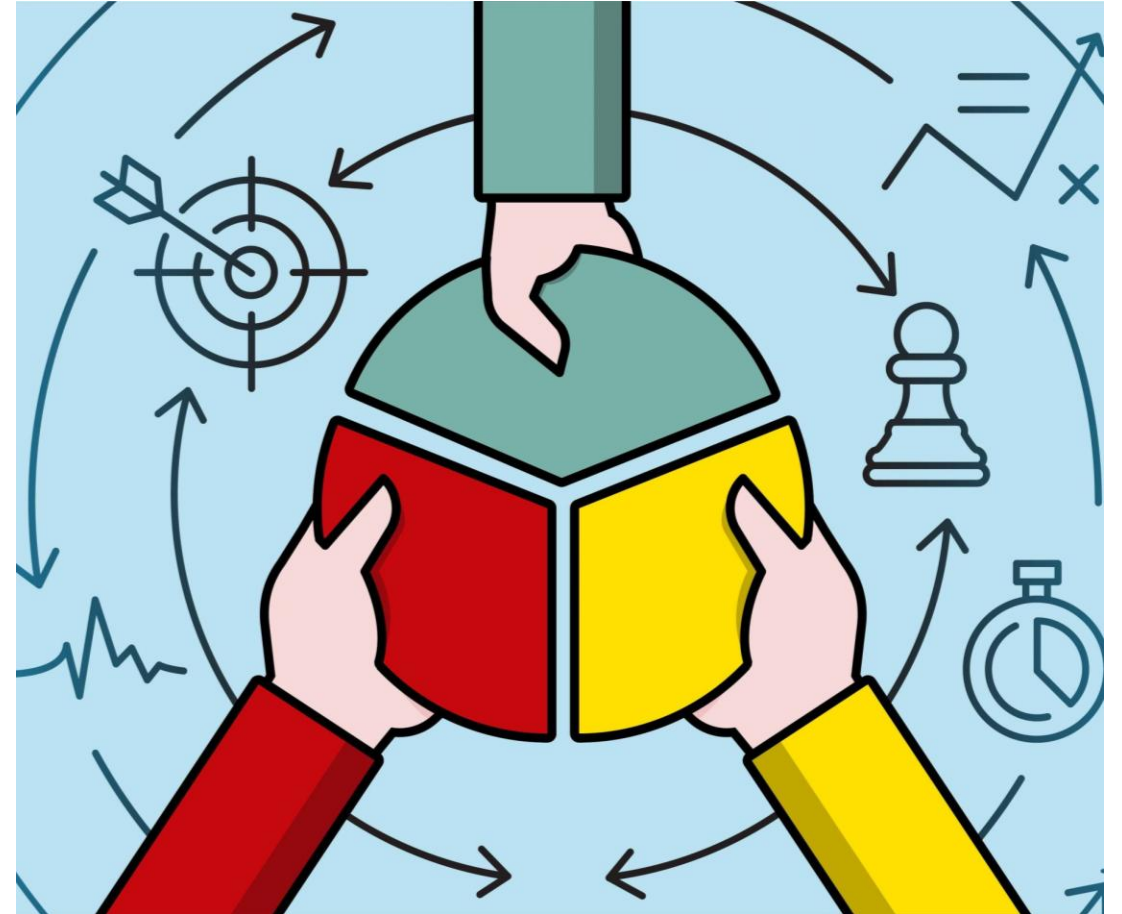
- Disease surveillance within zone: disease control
- Surveillance outside of zone: demonstrate freedom
- (Or the other way around!)
- Early detection & measuring effectiveness
- Data management and record keeping





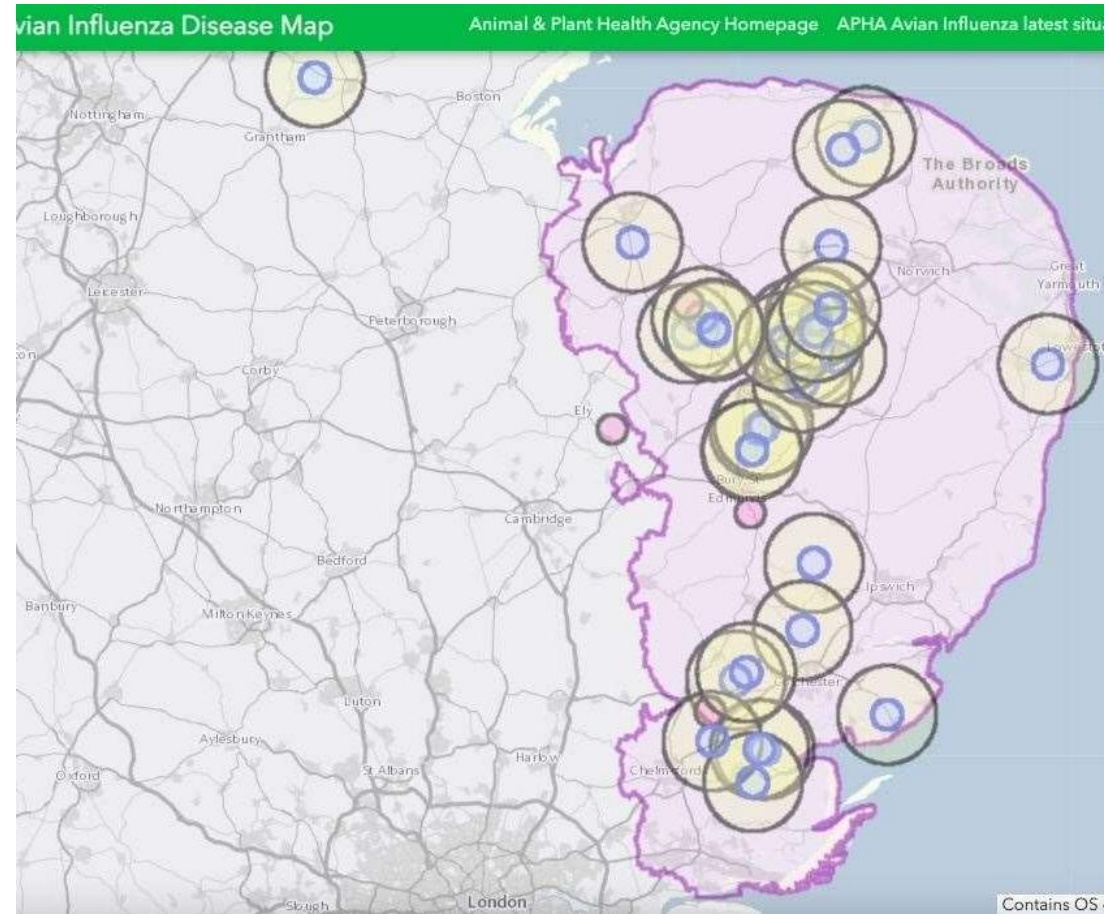
Collaboration with Stakeholders

- Ensuring right measures and fitness for purpose
- Rules designed to be practical and implementable
- Working in partnership
- Sharing responsibility (and cost)
- Final authority lies with Vet Services



Communication and Transparency

- Communication with public & industry
- Notifications to WOH
- Direct benefits for effective movement controls and certification
- Transparency towards trading partners
- Webpages & interactive maps effective tools





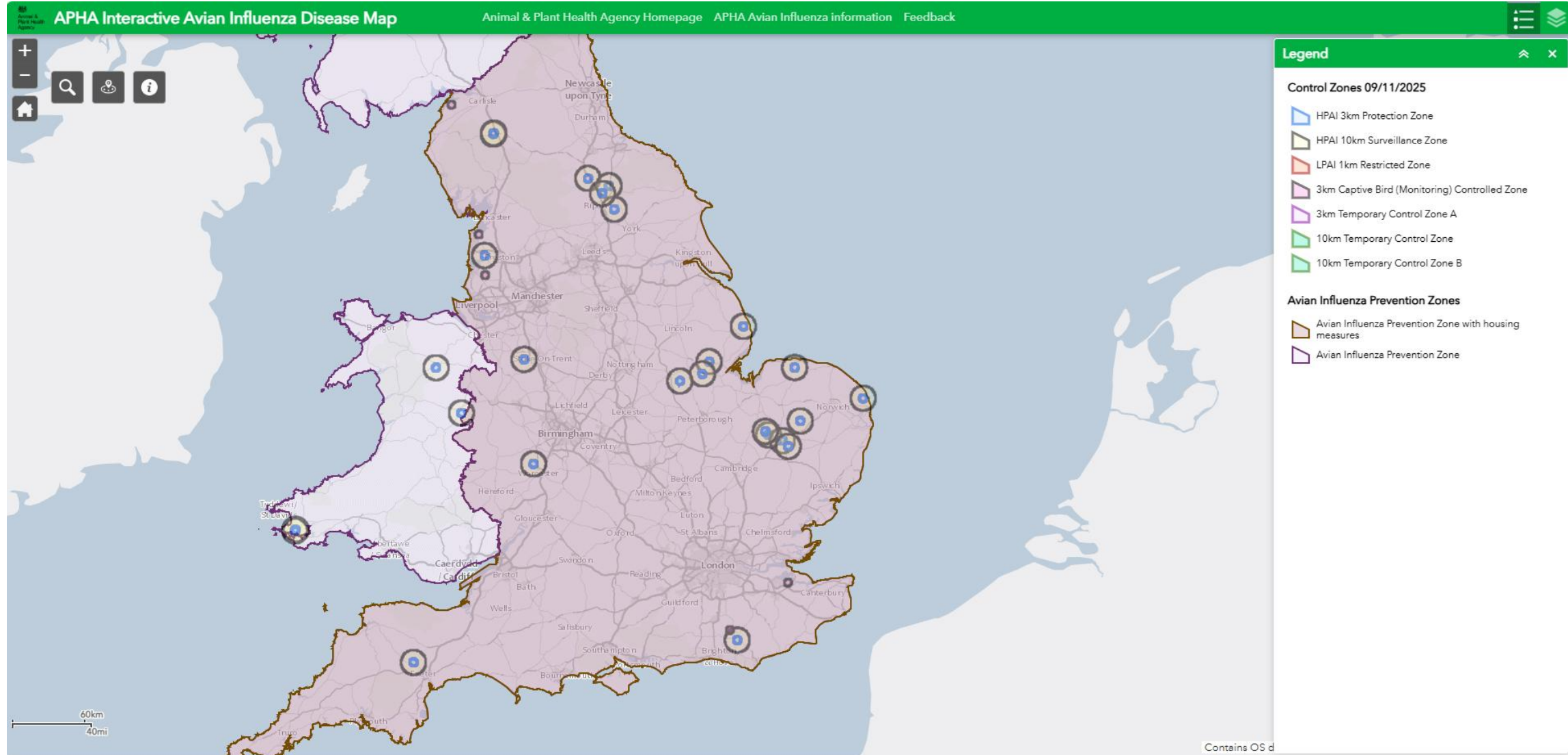
UK example – HPAI zoning

- Early detection through awareness and surveillance
- Rapid establishment of zones & communication
- APHA Interactive Map
- Avian “Core Group” – involving industry
- Transparency & consistent reporting
- Trade benefits require continuous and consistent effort





UK example – Communication





UK experience with compartmentalisation

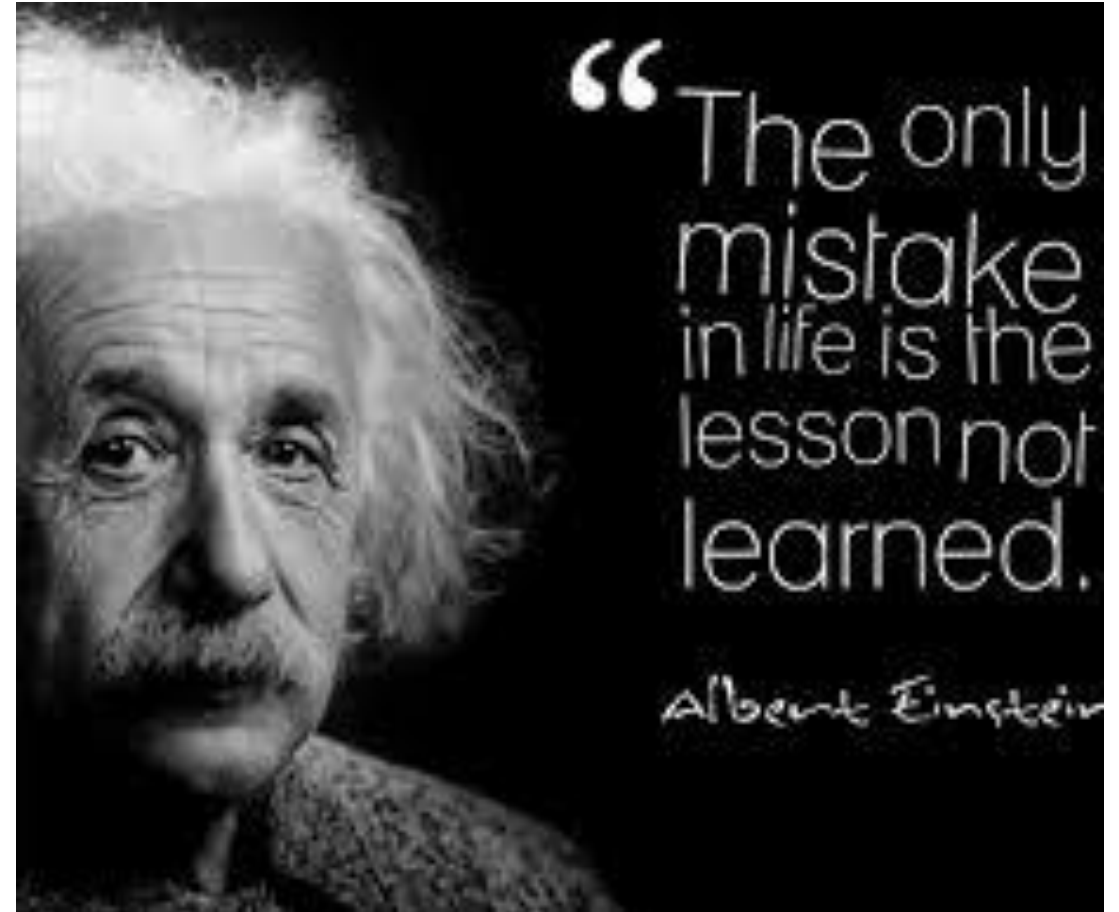
- Strategic need to maintain export of hatching eggs and day old chicks
- Early adoption of concept for high value avian genetics
- GB 'Enhanced' Compartment Scheme
- Uniform biosecurity rules for GB compartments
- Strict approval & supervision process
- Intensive ongoing surveillance





UK Lessons Learned

- Involving industry into planning is critical
- Legal framework and national policies in advance
- Simulation exercises help implementation
- Trading partner engagement and building of trust
- Preventing complacency is essential
- Continuous biosecurity and consistent standards
- No “silver bullet”





Summary

- Zoning and compartmentalization effective tools, but neither perfect!
- VS competence and implementation is critical
- Adapting to disease epidemiology and production systems for effectiveness
- Start simple and build complexity over time
- Maintain and improve robustness of measures
- Regular review and continuous improvement essential

