

NAME:

COURSE:

Deadly bird flu type detected

THE slaughter of thousands of turkeys is under way today as officials battle to stamp out Britain's first outbreak of the potentially deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu.

Scientists confirmed the avian flu which killed more than 2,000 birds on a Bernard Matthews farm at Holton, near Halesworth in Suffolk, is the highly pathogenic Asian strain.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has dramatically increased the area where restrictions are in force in East Anglia to control the H5N1 outbreak.

The Restriction Zone, in which poultry must be kept isolated from wild birds and movements must be licensed, covers 2,090 square kilometres (806 square miles) of east Suffolk and south east Norfolk.

It extends to the A47 just south of Norwich in the north, the A140 in the west, and almost to Felixstowe in the south.

Around 159,000 birds on the farm where the outbreak was identified are being killed, Defra said.

But Government officials were keen to reassure the public there was no need to panic, as the risk to humans was "negligible".

Turkeys first began falling ill on Tuesday, and by Thursday Defra had been informed and restrictions were in place around the farm itself.

Yesterday, tests at the European Union laboratory in Weybridge, Surrey, confirmed the dangerous form of avian flu on the Suffolk farm.

QUESTIONS

1. Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text (2 points).

a. Where was the disease first found?

b. When did the disease first begin?

2. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact words (1.5 points)

a. The type of avian flu detected is highly dangerous:

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b. East Anglia is not going to be a restricted area:

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c. This disease is very dangerous for humans:

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