

Updated Outbreak Assessment #10

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the UK and Europe

17 January 2022

Ref: VITT/1200 HPAI in the UK and Europe

Disease Report

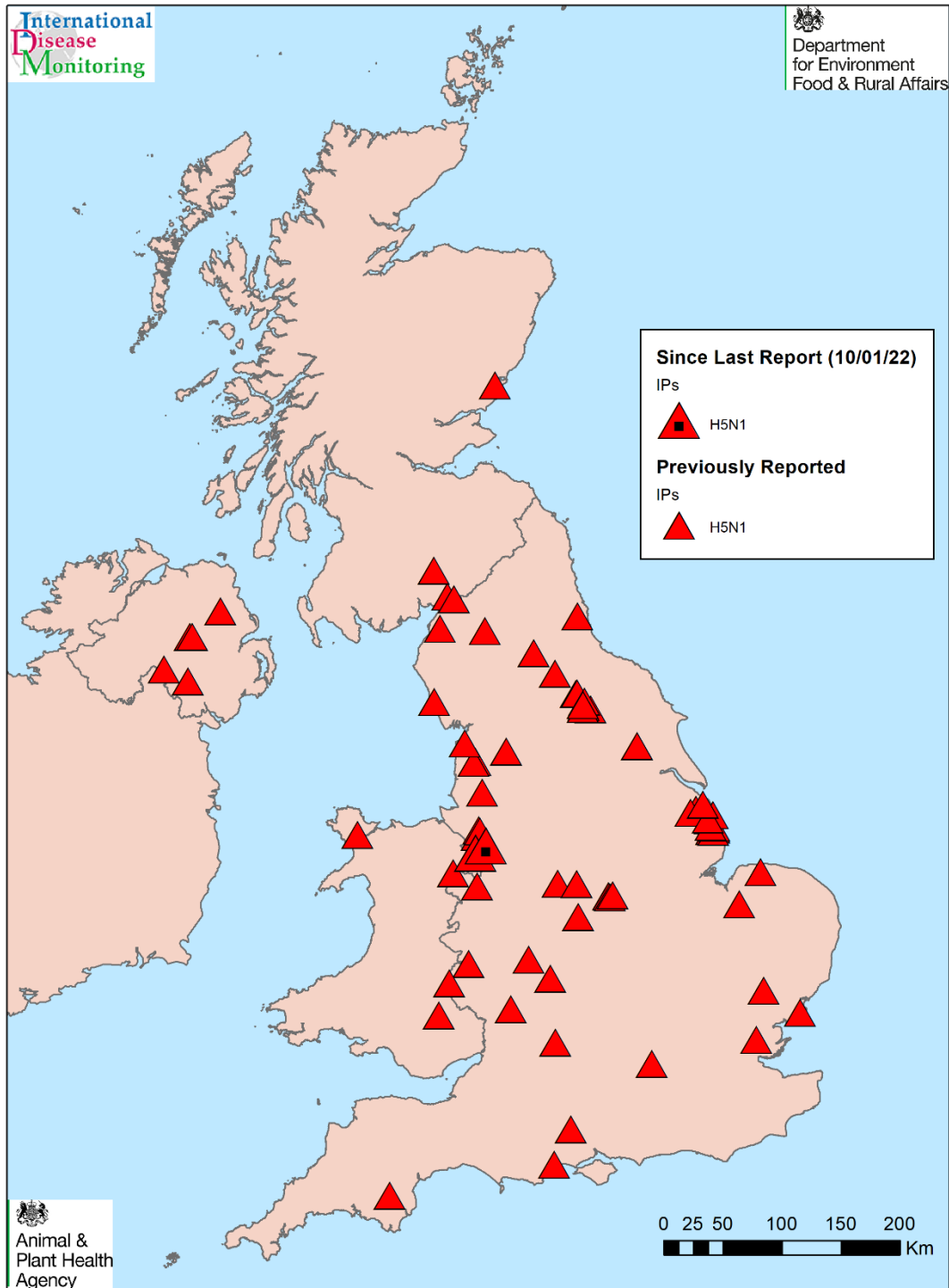
Since our last outbreak assessment on 10 January 2022, there continue to be reports of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 both in Europe and in the United Kingdom (UK). This includes two further outbreaks in domestic poultry in the UK.

There have been a further two confirmed outbreaks in Great Britain (GB) of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry since our last assessment, both of which were in commercial premises. There have been no further HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in Northern Ireland since 10 January 2022 (DAERA 2022).

According to the OIE, HPAI H5 reports have continued in Europe over the past week, with France reporting the highest number of outbreaks in domestic poultry. Since 10 January 2022, Croatia, France, Hungary, and Poland have reported further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 and Denmark has reported one outbreak of H5N8 in domestic poultry.

Wild bird HPAI H5N1 cases continue to be reported in Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden, with the highest number of cases reported in Germany. Cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds have been reported in Spain for the first time this HPAI season. There has also been a case of HPAI H5N8 reported in wild birds in Norway in the last week.

Map 1: HPAI H5 outbreaks in poultry¹ and captive birds across the United Kingdom, October 2021 to 17 January 2022.



Date: 17/01/2022
Map prepared by IDM

UK HPAI IPs
October 2021 - January 2022

Situation Assessment

United Kingdom

The first detection of HPAI H5N1 virus this season was in rescued swans and captive poultry at a swan sanctuary in Worcester (England) on 15 October. Since then, there have been 75 further confirmed cases of HPAI H5N1 (Map 1), (Table 1).

Between our last assessment on 10 January and 17 January, 2022 there have been two new outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in poultry premises in GB both of which were in Cheshire, England.

Since our last report, there have been no further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 confirmed in Northern Ireland, therefore the total number of outbreaks in Northern Ireland remains at five across the counties of Tyrone, Antrim and Armagh (DAERA, 2022).

Table 1: Poultry¹ and captive bird outbreaks of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in Great Britain since 1 October 2021, as of 17 January 2022

Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
1	27 October 2021	Near Wychavon, Worcester	Rescued wild swans (adults and young), rescued and captive geese, ducks, and chickens.
2	2 November 2021	Near Chirk, Cheshire	Backyard chickens
3	4 November 2021	Near Arbroath, Angus	Mixed backyard flock of 16 chickens, 20 guinea fowl and 12 ducks.
4	8 November 2021	Near Alcester, Bidford	Small flock of 31 turkeys and 19 chicken

¹ According to the 2021 OIE definition of poultry: [Terrestrial Code Online Access - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)

Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
5	11 November 2021	Near Kirby Cross, Essex	Small flock of mixed geese, chickens, guinea fowl
6	12 November 2021	Near Preston, Lancashire	Commercial turkey premises
7	13 November 2021	Near Northallerton, North Yorkshire	Commercial free range laying hens
8	16 November 2021	Near Preston, Lancashire	Backyard chickens
9	17 November 2021	Near Willington, Derbyshire	Commercial turkey premises
10	19 November 2021	Near Pokesdown, Bournemouth	Backyard ducks
11	19 November 2021	Near Silecroft, Cumbria	Commercial free range laying hens
12	21 November 2021	Near Mouldsworth, Chester	Commercial turkey premises
13	21 November 2021	Near North Fambridge, Essex	Small flock of mixed geese, chickens, ducks
14	21 November 2021	Near Holkham, Norfolk	Small flock of mixed chickens and turkeys
15	21 November 2021	Near Thirsk, Yorkshire	Commercial turkey premises
16	25 November 2021	Near Thirsk, Yorkshire	Commercial free range laying hens

Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
17	25 November 2021	Near Thirsk, Yorkshire	Commercial turkey premises
18	26 November 2021	Near Loughborough, Leicestershire	Commercial free range laying hens
19	26 November 2021	Near Thirsk, Yorkshire	Commercial turkey premises
20	27 November 2021	Near Blackpool, Lancashire	Mixed ornamental birds
21	26 November 2021	Near Anglesey, Wales	Backyard hobby farm
22	26 November 2021	Near Clitheroe, Lancashire	Mixed captive birds
23	28 November 2021	Near Thirsk, Yorkshire	Backyard hobby farm
24	29 November 2021	Near Thirsk, Yorkshire	Commercial turkey premises
25	01 December 2021	Leicestershire	Commercial free range laying hens
26	02 December 2021	Near Thirsk, Yorkshire	Commercial free range laying hens
27	02 December 2021	Staffordshire	Backyard hobby farm
28	02 December 2021	Herefordshire	Commercial broiler farm
29	04 December 2021	Dumfries	Commercial laying hens
30	04 December 2021	Powys	Mixed captive birds

Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
31	04 December 2021	Yorkshire	Backyard turkeys
32	04 December 2021	Gloucestershire	Wildfowl Park
33	04 December 2021	Yorkshire	Commercial laying hens
34	06 December 2021	Leicestershire	Commercial laying hens
35	07 December 2021	Leicestershire	Commercial laying hens
36	07 December 2021	near Pocklington, East Yorkshire	Commercial ducks
37	08 December 2021	Near Sudbury, South Suffolk	Commercial laying hens
38	08 December 2021	Near Thirsk, North Yorkshire	Commercial turkeys
39	09 December 2021	Cumbria	Commercial laying hens
40	09 December 2021	Dumfries	Backyard mixed species
41	10 December 2021	Near Moffat, Dumfriesshire	Backyard mixed species
42	10 December 2021	Near Highworth, Wiltshire	Commercial turkeys
43	10 December 2021	Near Clifford, Herefordshire	Commercial turkeys

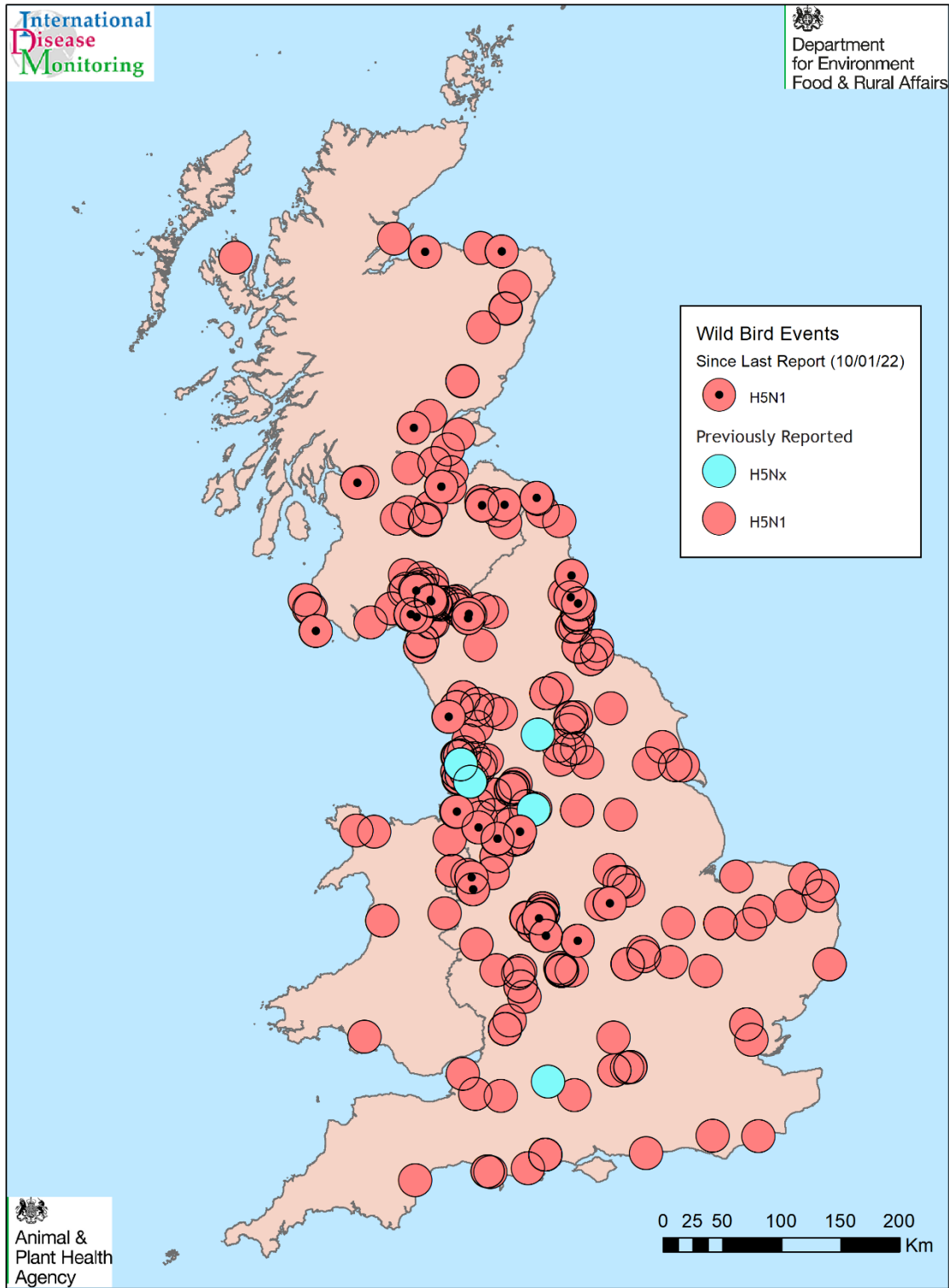
Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
44	11 December 2021	Near Washington, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear	Mixed wildfowl
45	11 December 2021	Near Alford, Lincolnshire	Commercial laying hens
46	11 December 2021	Near Willington, Derbyshire	Mixed poultry
47	12 December 2021	Near Alford, Lincolnshire	Commercial laying hens
48	12 December 2021	Near Alford, Lincolnshire	Commercial laying hens
49	14 December 2021	Near Middleton-in-Teesdale, County Durham	Backyard chickens
50	14 December 2021	Near Pocklington, Yorkshire	Commercial ducks
51	14 December 2021	Near Alford, Lincolnshire	Commercial laying hens
52	14 December 2021	Near Alford, Lincolnshire	Commercial broiler breeder and laying hens
53	15 December 2021	Near Atherstone, Leicestershire	Backyard mixed species
54	15 December 2021	Near Wem, Shropshire	Commercial mixed species

Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
55	15 December 2021	Near Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway	Backyard mixed species
56	16 December 2021	Near Alford, Lincolnshire	Commercial chickens
57	16 December 2021	Near Thirsk, Yorkshire	Commercial broiler chickens
58	16 December 2021	Near Alford, Lincolnshire	Commercial laying hens
59	17 December 2021	Near Alford, Lincolnshire	Commercial laying hens
60	18 December 2021	Near Alford, Lincolnshire	Commercial laying hens
61	18 December 2021	Near Frodsham, Cheshire	Commercial mixed species
62	22 December 2021	Near Alvanley, Cheshire	Backyard ducks
63	22 December 2021	Near Buckfastleigh, Devon	Backyard ducks
64	28 December 2021	Near Pentney, Norfolk	Commercial turkeys
65	28 December 2021	Near North Somercotes, Lincolnshire	Commercial turkeys
66	30 December 2021	Near Romsey, Hampshire	Backyard mixed species

Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
67	31 December 2021	Near Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire	Backyard mixed species
68	31 December 2021	Near Melton Mowbray, Lincolnshire	Commercial turkeys
69	02 January 2022	Near Eton, Berkshire	Rescued wild swans
70	03 January 2022	Near Alford, Lincolnshire	Backyard chickens
71	04 January 2022	Near Carlisle, Cumbria	Commercial mixed species
72	05 January 2022	Near Louth, Lincolnshire	Commercial turkeys
73	07 January 2022	Near Upholland, Lancashire	Backyard mixed species
74	10 January 2022	Near Louth, Lincolnshire	Commercial laying hens
75	13 January 2022	Near Tattenhall, Cheshire	Commercial grandparent breeder turkeys
76	13 January 2022	Near Tarporley, Cheshire	Commercial breeder turkeys

¹ According to the 2021 OIE definition of poultry: [Terrestrial Code Online Access - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)

Map 2: HPAI H5 cases in wild birds across Great Britain October 2021 to 17 January 2022



Date: 17/01/2022
Map prepared by IDM

GB HPAI Wild Bird Events
October 2021 - January 2022

Since our last outbreak assessment on 10 January, to 17 January 2022, HPAI H5 has been detected in a further 12 wild bird locations in GB, bringing the total to 151 separate wild bird positive locations, involving 31 different bird species in 62 separate counties (Table 2). There have been five cases for which the H5 genotype has been identified but the N type has not. These cases are currently undergoing further processing to identify the Neuraminidase genotype strain (H5Nx in Map 2).

For further details, please see the report (updated weekly) on findings of [HPAI in wild birds](#) in GB. and [NI](#).

Table 2: Wild bird species in Great Britain that have tested positive for HPAI H5 as of 17 January 2022

Region and species	Total number of birds testing positive
England	406
Barnacle Goose	10
Bewick's Swan	1
Black headed gull	5
Black Swan	2
Canada Goose	79
Common Buzzard	14
Curlew	2
Goshawk	1
Great-crested Grebe	2
Grey Heron	1
Greylag goose	24
Guillemot	1
Gull	3
Kestrel	3
Lapwing	1
Little Gull	1
Mallard Duck	2
Mute Swan	182
Peregrine Falcon	3
Pheasant	7
Pink Footed goose	10
Red Kite	1
Sparrowhawk	2
Unidentified Swan	12
Unspecified Duck	1
Unspecified Goose	11

Region and species	Total number of birds testing positive
Whooper Swan	24
Widgeon	1
Scotland	98
Barnacle Goose	31
Canada Goose	3
Common Buzzard	10
Greylag goose	8
Gull	2
Herring Gull	1
Kestrel	1
Mute Swan	14
Pink Footed goose	3
Sea Eagle	1
Sparrowhawk	1
Unidentified Swan	8
Unspecified Bird of Prey	1
Unspecified Duck	2
Unspecified Goose	6
Whooper Swan	6
Wales	12
Canada Goose	2
Common Buzzard	1
Herring Gull	1
Mute Swan	2
Pheasant	5
Unspecified Goose	1
Grand Total	516

Europe

The total numbers of HPAI H5 outbreaks in poultry and wild bird cases in Europe are presented in Table 3. This is a rapidly changing picture, with new disease reports being made to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on a daily basis. Numbers reported are from OIE's WAHIS platform.

Table 3 Current outbreaks (to 17 January 2022) of HPAI H5 in domestic poultry and cases in wild birds since 1 October 2021 in Europe, excluding the UK, according to OIE reporting.

Country	H5 wild birds	H5 poultry	H5N1 wild birds	H5N1 poultry	H5N8 wild birds	H5N8 poultry	H5N2 wild birds	Total
Austria			20					20
Belgium	2		25	2				29
Bosnia and Herzegovina			2					2
Bulgaria		7						7
Croatia			6	2				8
Czech Republic			9	3				12
Denmark		1	36	4		1		42
Estonia			7		2	1		10
Finland			11		2			13
France			37	115				152
Germany			526	34				560
Greece			1					1
Hungary			13	109				122
Ireland			54	7				61

Country	H5 wild birds	H5 poultry	H5N1 wild birds	H5N1 poultry	H5N8 wild birds	H5N8 poultry	H5N2 wild birds	Total
Italy			17	237				254
Luxembourg			3					3
Netherlands	1		126	12	2			141
Norway			3	2	1			6
Poland			17	77				94
Portugal			4	2				6
Romania			5					5
Russia	32	11	10	4				57
Serbia and Montenegro			3		3		1	7
Slovakia			13		1			14
Slovenia			18	1				19
Spain			4					4
Sweden			25	4	1			30
Switzerland			1					1
Ukraine	2	1						3

Northern Europe (OIE data only)

In the week since our last outbreak assessment on 10 January 2022, HPAI H5 has been recorded in 18 European countries (OIE). The total number of EU Member States (MS) affected this season according to IZS^{Ve} (2022a) is currently 28.

Since our last assessment, **Austria** has not reported any further HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in domestic poultry. There have been five cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) all of which were found dead.

Belgium has not reported any further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry and has reported 11 cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild or captive birds in the last week, with greylag goose (*Anser anser*), common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), Egyptian goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*), barn owl (*Tyto alba*), common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) and Eurasian magpie (*Pica pica*) species affected. One report involved a non-poultry premises in Bocholt in the northern province of Limburg with approximately 5,111 pheasants (*Phasianus colchidus*).

Bulgaria has not reported any further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in poultry or cases in wild birds since our last report.

Croatia has reported one further HPAI H5N1 outbreak in a backyard flock comprising of 40 laying hens, three ducks and nine ornamental pigeons between 10 and 17 January. In addition, there has been one further HPAI H5N1 event in a found dead wild mute swan (*Cygnus olor*).

Czech Republic has not reported any further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in poultry or cases in wild birds since our last report.

Denmark has reported one outbreak of HPAI H5N8 at a commercial premises with approximately 100,000 laying hens in Stoholm in the northern Viborg Municipality since our last report. This event is approximately 30km from the H5N8 reported in a mute swan (*cygnus olor*) in December 2021. No further cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds have been reported since our last assessment.

As reported by OIE, neither **Estonia** or **The Faroe Islands** have reported any further HPAI events in poultry or wild birds since our last update. The Faroe Islands therefore still remains the most north-westerly point of the epizootic.

Finland has reported two cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds since our last assessment. These reports involved one greater white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*) and one mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*), both of which were in Helsinki.

France has reported a further 73 HPAI H5N1 outbreaks on poultry farms, largely in the south-west of France, since 10 January 2022. The majority of the affected farms (58) are commercial duck rearing premises, including foie gras ducks. The other farms have involved chickens, turkeys or mixed poultry. There have been two further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in France which were not within the southwest: one involving breeder chickens in Herzele for which secondary spread has been suspected although epidemiological investigations are ongoing, and one involving ducks in the western central commune of Saint-Hilaire-des-Loges. Since our last assessment, there have been seven further cases of HPAI H5N1 reported in non-commercial poultry or wild birds. Two of these reports have been in backyard flocks of laying hens (25) and poultry (24) neither of which have been linked to affected commercial premises. The other cases have involved wild greylag goose (*Anser anser*), mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), great egret (*Ardea alba*) and white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) species. During the most recent EU presentations, France concluded that there was a high level of infection pressure in wildlife and that even if lessons learned from previous HPAI events are being applied, the current situation is evolving quickly (PAFF 2022a).

Germany has not reported any HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry since our last report, according to OIE data. There have been 57 events of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds reported by OIE since our last assessment, with unidentified *Anatidae* (49), *Accipitridae* (5), *Corvidae* (1), *Falconidae* (1) and *Scolopacidae* (1) species affected.

Hungary has reported four more outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in the last week. Two of the affected premises are breeding duck farms with approximately 7,200 and 10,674 animals each, one has around 1,000 foie gras geese and the fourth is a laying hen premises with 700 animals. There have also been two reports of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds in Hungary since our last report, involving one mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) and two long-eared owls (*Asio otus*).

Luxembourg has not reported any HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in domestic poultry or events in wild birds in the last week.

The **Netherlands** has not reported any further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in poultry since our last report. There have been 27 further HPAI H5N1 cases in wild birds reported by OIE in the last week involving barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*), greylag goose (*Anser anser*), common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*), long-eared owl (*Asio otus*), Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), European herring gull (*Larus argentatus*) and barn owl (*Tyto alba*) species.

Norway has not reported any outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry since our last report. There has been one report of HPAI H5N8 in a single wild great black-backed gull (*Larus marinus*).

Poland has reported eight further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 since our last assessment. The affected premises involve commercial breeding geese and hens, slaughter ducks, turkeys and chickens, and one backyard flock of laying hens. There have also been seven reports of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds since our last report, involving greylag goose (*Anser anser*), common gull (*Larus canus*) and mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) species.

Romania has reported a case of HPAI H5N1 involving two wild mallard ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*) in the eastern area of Parcheş since our last report. To date, there have been no reports of HPAI in domestic poultry in Romania during this HPAI season.

Russia has not reported any outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry or cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds since our last report.

Slovakia has not reported any outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry during this HPAI season, however there has been one further wild mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) reported as positive for H5N1 within the last week.

Slovenia has reported ten further cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds in the last week, involving a total of eleven mute swans (*Cygnus olor*).

Sweden has reported three further cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds since our last assessment. These reports concerned two mute swans (*Cygnus olor*), a Eurasian magpie (*Pica pica*) and a barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*).

Ukraine has not reported any further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry or cases in wild birds since our last report.

Southern Europe

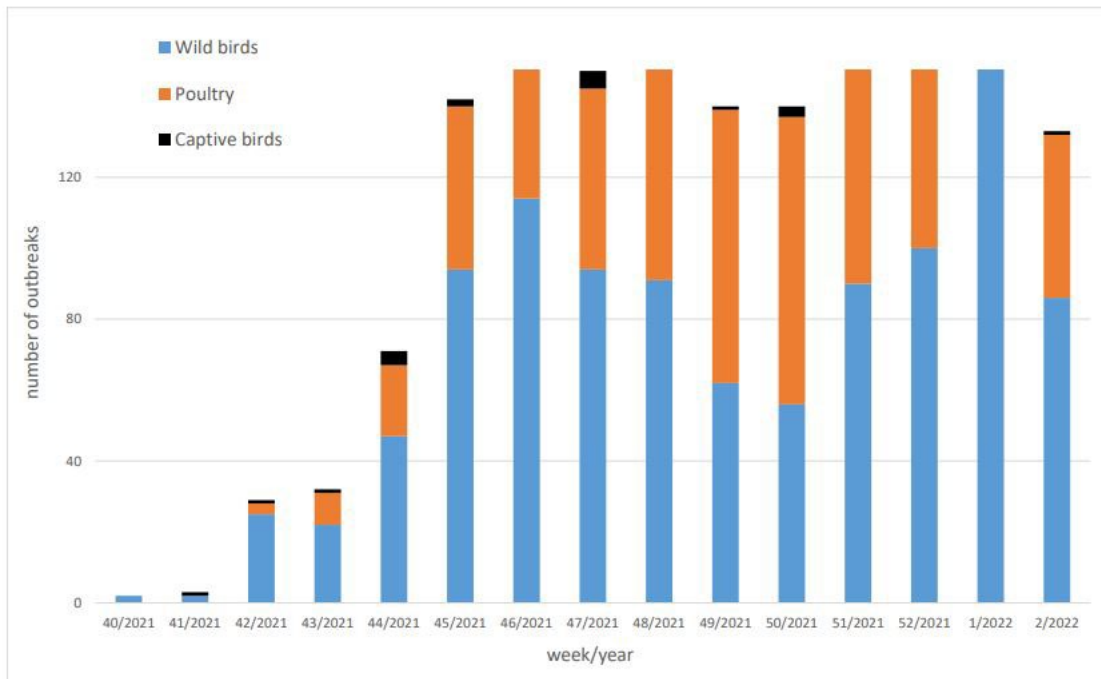
Italy has not reported any further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry or cases in wild birds in the last week, according to OIE.

Portugal has reported one further HPAI H5N1 event since our last report, involving three Muscovy ducks (*Cairina moschata*) in the Santarém District. There is currently no further information available on the strain type.

Spain has reported HPAI H5N1 for the first time this HPAI season with four cases involving wild birds. The reports included three greylag geese (*Anser anser*) and one grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*) in El Oso, within the central-western province of Ávila. There

were also reports of four mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) and one white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) in Soses in Catalonia. There is currently no further information available on the strain type.

Figure 1- Number of HPAI events in Europe each week from October 2021 to 17 January 2022 (IZSVe, 2022a)

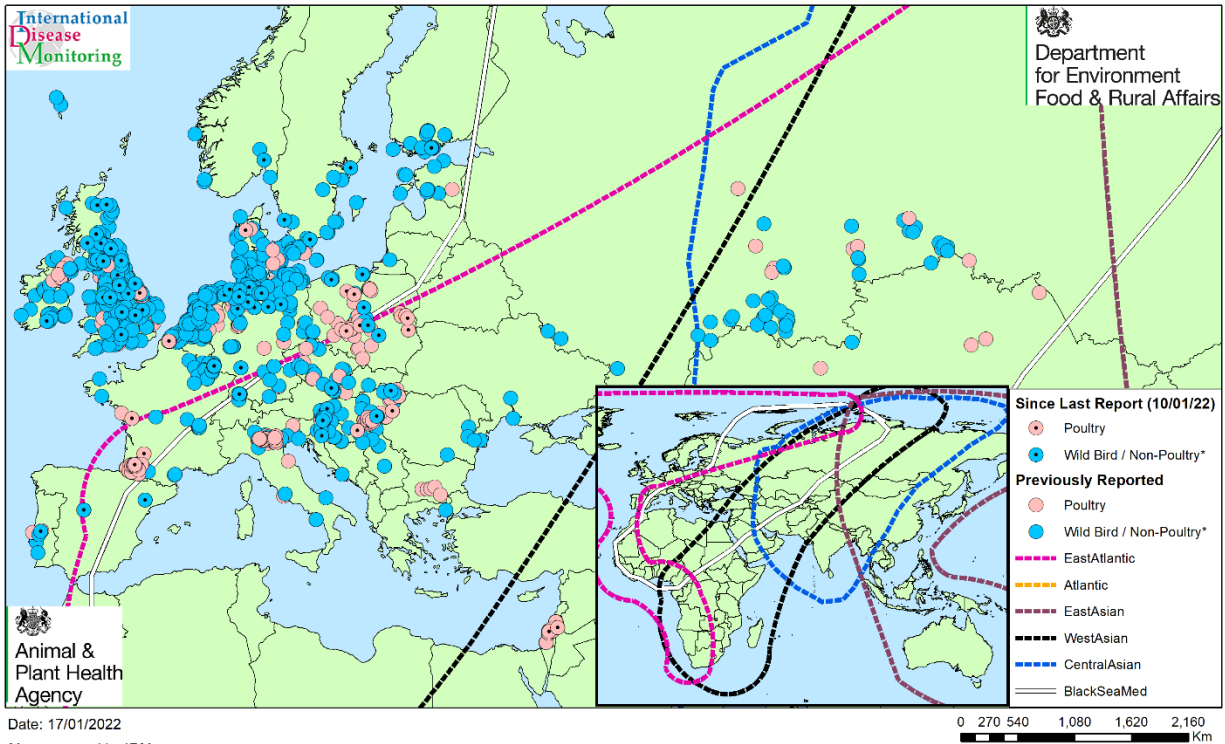


The number of poultry, wild bird, and captive bird reports for each week according to the EU Reference Laboratory (IZSVe 2022a) is shown in Figure 1. From the IZSVe data, the number of wild bird cases reported in the EU MS appears to have decreased by around 50% between weeks 51 and 52 of 2021, before rising slightly in week 1 of 2022. Last season, wild bird cases peaked in week 47 at 160 per week, before declining to roughly 50 cases per week by week 51. In week one of 2021, there was just under 40 cases reported in wild birds and a large number of poultry outbreaks (approximately 160), a second peak in wild birds was then observed in week 9 of 2021 with approximately 200 cases (IZSVe 2021). The proportion of poultry outbreaks was higher than that for cases in wild birds from week 49 to 52 in 2021, a higher proportion of HPAI cases in wild birds has been observed in the first week of 2022, compared with the proportion of outbreaks in poultry. The higher proportion of HPAI cases in wild birds compared with outbreaks in domestic poultry has continued in week 2 of 2022 however the number of wild bird cases reported has dropped from week 1.

The map below (Map 2) shows the distribution of HPAI H5 events in poultry, captive birds and wild birds in Europe reported to OIE between September 2021 and 17

January 2022. Those events reported since our last outbreak assessment on 10 January are distinguished with dots.

Map 3: HPAI outbreaks (from OIE) in poultry, captive, and wild birds across Europe, September 2021 to 17 January 2022.



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Poultry and Non-Poultry*

September 2021 - January 2022

Overlay: Migratory Bird Flyways

OIE Data Only

*OIE Defined

Implications for the UK

Given the continuing high frequency of wild bird cases of HPAI H5N1 across GB, the domestic poultry and captive bird populations in GB remain under increased infection pressure, particularly where biosecurity is sub-optimal. Even where biosecurity is stringent, the ongoing high wild bird infection pressure will highlight any weaknesses that exist. Poultry outbreaks and wild bird cases are also continuing across Europe, although it is not clear from Figure 1 if a second peak in wild bird cases in EU MS, as observed in previous epizootics, will follow into the spring. It should be noted that trends in wild bird cases in Europe are becoming less important as a predictor for the UK as the winter progresses through into the spring, because most of the birds that migrate

from continental Europe to overwinter in GB are likely to have arrived by this stage of the winter. While most of the wild water birds will now be in GB, there is a lag in poultry outbreaks with more expected over the next few weeks.

Conclusion

More cases of HPAI H5 in wild birds and outbreaks in poultry continue to be reported across Europe and also in GB since our last assessment.

Total numbers of migrating wild water birds (ducks, geese, and some swan species) will now have peaked in GB and the majority of wintering water birds have now arrived. There have been 516 confirmed cases of HPAI H5 in wild birds in GB to 17 January 2022 across a range of species, including a significant number of resident sedentary birds of species such as mute swan, Canada goose and some raptors indicating that they had been exposed to infection in GB itself. Furthermore, potential bridging species such as gulls, pheasants and some raptors have tested positive. In continental Europe, corvids and sparrows which could also serve as bridging species have been reported as infected. A recent European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) presentation reported that between 15 September and 1 December 2021, 219 poultry HPAI outbreaks were reported across Europe (and the UK). Of these, 35% had been observed in fattening turkeys, compared to 9% during the same time period in 2020, with a large increase also observed in broilers, representing 15% of outbreaks in 2021 compared to 6% in 2020. The majority (198) of poultry HPAI outbreaks in this period were reported from commercial farms, 78 of which did not have outdoor access and raises concern regarding applied biosecurity measures (PAFF 2022b).

Further virus detections are expected across northeast and southeast Europe over the coming months, following incursions from migratory waterbirds, with the epizootic potentially extending the southern and western limits observed in previous seasons. The increased rate of HPAI detection in the greylag and barnacle goose initially observed in the 2020/21 season has continued in to the 2021/22 season. In light of this, EFSA is currently in the process of revising the list of target species for passive surveillance in wild birds (PAFF 2022b).

More wild bird HPAI H5 infections are expected in sedentary species and potential bridging species in GB. HPAI H5 will continue to circulate in both susceptible migrant water birds and sedentary bird species within GB over the next few months, with a greater number of events likely to be observed around water bird wintering sites. The risk level of HPAI H5 in wild birds is therefore maintained at **VERY HIGH** across GB.

The risk of exposure of poultry across the whole GB is maintained at **MEDIUM** (with low uncertainty) where good biosecurity is applied, and at **HIGH** (with low uncertainty) where biosecurity is suboptimal. This assessment takes into consideration the Avian Influenza Protection Zone (AIPZ) and assumes that bird keepers are taking the additional biosecurity measures required.

On 24 November, the Chief Veterinary Officers for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland announced housing measures, which came into force on the 29 November 2021. It is now a legal requirement for all bird keepers to keep their birds indoors, to exclude contact with wild birds, and to follow strict biosecurity measures in order to limit the spread of and eradicate the disease. These housing measures build on the strengthened biosecurity requirements that were introduced as part of the AIPZ in GB on 3 November 2021, and in Northern Ireland on 17 November 2021.

We are continuing to closely monitor the situation.

It is particularly important that stringent adherence to good biosecurity practices is now not only maintained but is constantly being reviewed for further improvement. Strict attention should be made to ensure compliance with reviewed contingency plans, with regular maintenance checks and repairs being carried out promptly on roofs and fabric of buildings – especially following damage caused by winter storms. Reinforcement of good biosecurity awareness behaviours and practices should be constantly instilled into personnel to prevent disease being introduced to poultry and captive birds. Special consideration should be made when bringing in equipment and materials, especially bedding and outer packages which may have become contaminated following environmental exposure whilst stored outside.

If you keep poultry (including game birds or as pets), you should follow our biosecurity best practice advice, which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#biosecurity-advice> .

Remain vigilant for any signs of disease in your flock and report any suspicious clinical signs of avian influenza to the Animal and Plant Health Agency. In England contact 03000 200 301. In Wales, contact 0300 303 8268. In Scotland, contact your local [Field Services Office](#). Further information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu> including updated biosecurity advice for poultry keepers for England; <https://gov.wales/avian-influenza> for Wales; <http://gov.scot/avianinfluenza> for Scotland and; <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/avian-influenza-ai#AIPZ> for NI.

The OIE/FAO International Reference Laboratory/UK National Reference Laboratory at Weybridge has the necessary diagnostic capability for strains of avian influenza virus,

whether of low or high pathogenicity, and continually monitors changes in the virus on a wide scale whilst utilising global networks to gain early insights to epidemiological trends and potential emergence of new genotypes which might change the risk profile. We will continue to report on any updates on the situation in Europe and, in particular, any changes in disease distribution or wild bird movements which may increase the risk to the UK.

In England, any findings **of three or more** dead wild birds of any species, found at the same location at the same time should be reported to the Wild bird Helpline (Tel: 03459 33 55 77 – please select option 7). It is advisable that you do not touch these birds.

In Scotland and Wales, findings **of any number** of dead wild birds of any species, found at the same location at the same time should be reported to the Wild bird Helpline (Tel: 03459 33 55 77 – please select option 7). It is advisable that you do not touch these birds.

Authors

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References

All outbreaks and cases were taken from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).
Please note that changes in format and level of detail are due to the change of data source for this report, from EU's Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS) to World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

DAERA (2022) [Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Avian influenza information page](#)

IZSVe (2022a) [IZSVe report - Number of highly pathogenic avian influenza positive events notified by country and poultry category \(pdf\)](#)

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