

Updated Outbreak Assessment #12

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

31 January 2022

Ref: VITT/1200 HPAI in the UK and Europe

Disease Report

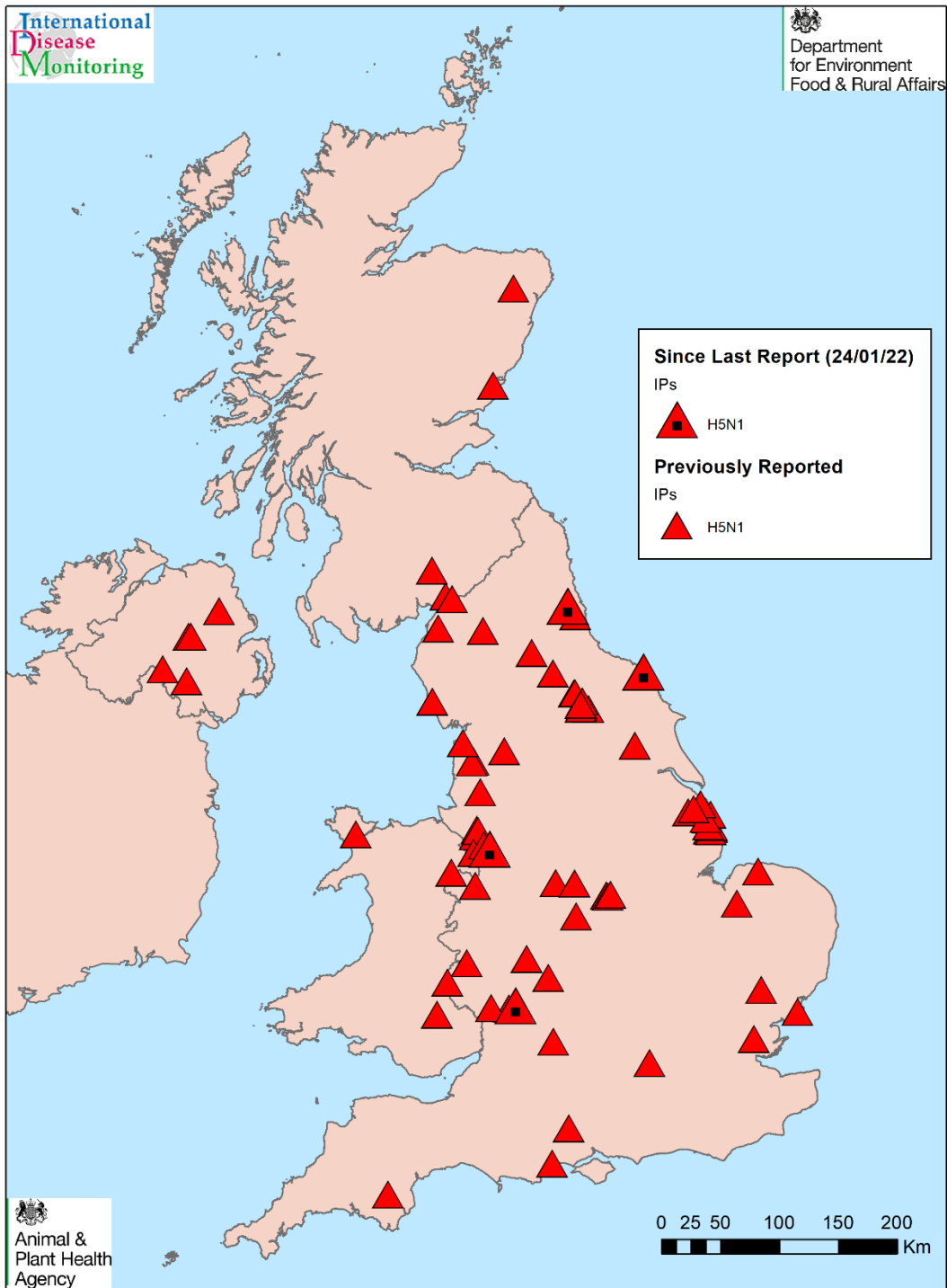
Since our last outbreak assessment on 24 January 2022, there continue to be reports of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 both in Europe and in the United Kingdom (UK). This includes four further outbreaks in domestic poultry and captive birds in the UK.

There have been a further four confirmed outbreaks in Great Britain (GB) of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry and captive birds since our last assessment, all of which have been in England. One outbreak has affected a commercial turkey premises in Cheshire, while the other three outbreaks have occurred in a backyard premises in Gloucestershire, a city farm in Tyne and Wear, and a wildlife rescue centre in North Yorkshire. There have been no further HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in Northern Ireland since 24 January 2022 (DAERA 2022).

According to the OIE, HPAI H5N1 reports have continued in Europe over the past week. Since 24 January 2022, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands and Poland have reported further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1, Bulgaria has reported further outbreaks of HPAI H5 and Moldova has reported an outbreak of H5N1 in domestic poultry for the first time this HPAI season.

Wild bird HPAI H5 cases continue to be reported in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Ireland, Russia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. The highest number of cases was reported in Germany (71) which included a case of HPAI H5N3.

Map 1: HPAI H5 outbreaks in poultry¹ and captive birds across the United Kingdom, October 2021 to 31 January 2022.



Date: 01/02/2022
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 82 further confirmed cases of HPAI H5N1 (Map 1), (Table 1).

Between our last assessment on 24 January and 31 January 2022 there have been four new outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in poultry premises and captive birds in GB. All of these outbreaks occurred in England in the counties of Tyne and Wear, North Yorkshire, Cheshire and Gloucestershire.

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. Furthermore, all local movement restrictions have been lifted following the completion of all disease control activities and surveillance at each premises where HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed this HPAI season (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 31 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.

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
4	8 November 2021	Near Alcester, Bedford	Small flock of 31 turkeys and 19 chicken
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

Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
16	25 November 2021	Near Thirsk, Yorkshire	Commercial free range laying hens
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

Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
29	04 December 2021	Dumfries	Commercial laying hens
30	04 December 2021	Powys	Mixed captive birds
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

Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
42	10 December 2021	Near Highworth, Wiltshire	Commercial turkeys
43	10 December 2021	Near Clifford, Herefordshire	Commercial turkeys
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

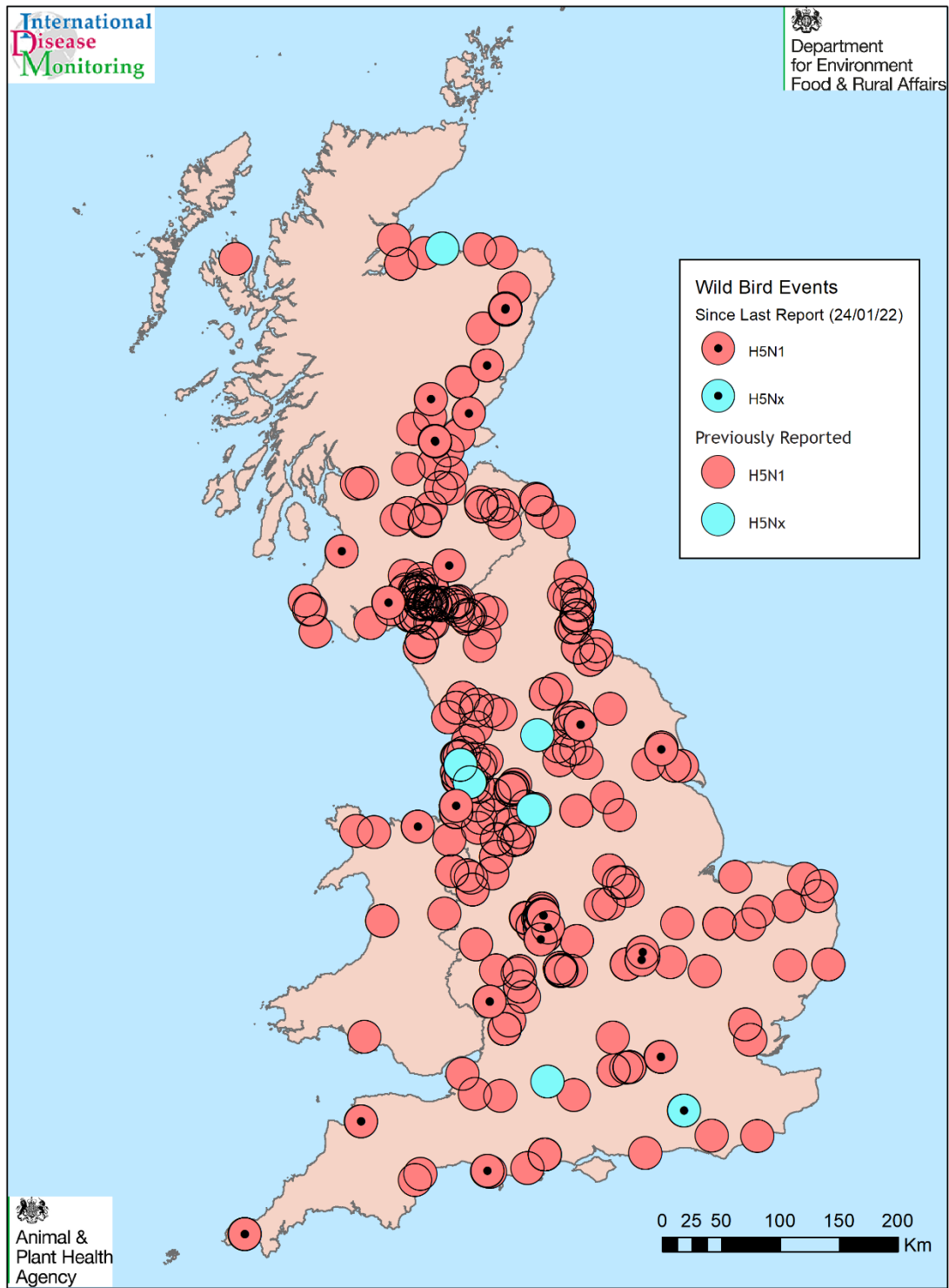
Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
54	15 December 2021	Near Wem, Shropshire	Commercial mixed species
55	15 December 2021	Near Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway	Backyard mixed species
56	16 December 2021	Near Alford, Lincolnshire	Commercial chickens
57	16 December 2021	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

Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
66	30 December 2021	Near Romsey, Hampshire	Backyard mixed species
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
77	20 January 2022	Near Ross on Wye, Herefordshire	Backyard mixed species
78	22 January 2022	Near Crewe, Cheshire	Commercial turkeys

Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
79	22 January 2022	Near Inverurie, Aberdeenshire	Backyard mixed species
80	25 January 2022	Near Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear	City farm smallholder mixed species
81	26 January 2022	Near Whitby, North Yorkshire	Wildlife rescue centre mixed species
82	28 January 2022	Near Calveley, Cheshire	Commercial turkeys
83	28 January 2022	Near Ashleworth, Gloucestershire	Backyard chickens

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 31 January 2022



Date: 31/01/2022
Map prepared by IDM

GB HPAI Wild Bird Events
October 2021 - January 2022

Since our last outbreak assessment on 24 January, to 31 January 2022, HPAI H5 has been detected in a further 13 wild bird locations in GB, bringing the total to 171 separate wild bird positive locations, involving 31 different bird species in 66 separate counties (Table 2). There have been seven 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 31 January 2022

Region and species	Total number of birds testing positive
England	447
Barnacle Goose	10
Bewick's Swan	1
Black headed gull	6
Black Swan	2
Canada Goose	85
Common Buzzard	20
Curlew	2
Goshawk	1
Great-crested Grebe	2
Grey Heron	1
Greylag goose	24
Guillemot	1
Gull	4
Herring Gull	6
Kestrel	4
Lapwing	1
Little Gull	1
Mallard Duck	2
Mute Swan	196
Peregrine Falcon	3
Pheasant	7
Pink Footed goose	10
Red Kite	1
Sparrowhawk	3
Unidentified Swan	15

Region and species	Total number of birds testing positive
Unspecified Duck	1
Unspecified Goose	12
Whooper Swan	25
Widgeon	1
Scotland	115
Barnacle Goose	31
Canada Goose	3
Common Buzzard	20
Greylag goose	8
Gull	2
Herring Gull	1
Kestrel	1
Mute Swan	15
Pink Footed goose	4
Red Kite	1
Sea Eagle	1
Sparrowhawk	1
Unidentified Swan	10
Unspecified Bird of Prey	2
Unspecified Duck	2
Unspecified Goose	6
Whooper Swan	7
Wales	13
Canada Goose	2
Common Buzzard	2
Herring Gull	1
Mute Swan	2
Pheasant	5
Unspecified Goose	1
Grand Total	575

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 31 January 2022) of HPAI H5 in domestic poultry (P) and cases in wild birds (WB) since 1 October 2021 in Europe, excluding the UK, according to OIE report date

Country	H5 (WB)	H5 (P)	H5N1 (WB)	H5N1 (P)	H5N8 (WB)	H5N8 (P)	H5N2 (WB)	H5N3 (WB)	Total
Austria			25						25
Belgium	2		30	2					34
Bosnia and Herzegovina			2						2
Bulgaria		9							9
Croatia			7	2					9
Czech Republic			9	3					12
Denmark		1	73	4	1	1			80
Estonia			7		2	1			10
Finland			11		2				13
France			44	115					159
Germany			612	53				1	666
Greece			1						1
Hungary			18	113					131
Ireland			66	6					72

Country	H5 (WB)	H5 (P)	H5N1 (WB)	H5N1 (P)	H5N8 (WB)	H5N8 (P)	H5N2 (WB)	H5N3 (WB)	Total
Italy			18	240					258
Latvia			2						2
Luxembourg			3						3
Moldova				1					1
Netherlands	1		144	16	2				163
Norway			5	2					7
Poland			26	82					108
Portugal			7	2					9
Romania			5						5
Russia	34	11	12	4					61
Serbia and Montenegro			3		3		1		7
Slovakia			14	1	1				16
Slovenia			39	1					40
Spain			6	1					7
Sweden			28	4	1				33
Switzerland			1						1

Country	H5 (WB)	H5 (P)	H5N1 (WB)	H5N1 (P)	H5N8 (WB)	H5N8 (P)	H5N2 (WB)	H5N3 (WB)	Total
Ukraine	2	1							3

Northern Europe (OIE data only, by report date)

In the week since our last outbreak assessment on 24 January 2022, HPAI H5 has been recorded in 16 European countries (OIE). The total number of EU Member States (MS) affected this season according to IZSVe (2022a) is currently 28. It should be noted that the reports by OIE for HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in Germany (5), Poland (5), the Netherlands (4), Hungary (1), and for one of the HPAI H5 outbreaks in Bulgaria refer to outbreaks that were confirmed between October and December 2021. The outbreak in Moldova was confirmed in January 2022 but not within the last week. With the exception of one bird in Germany, all of the HPAI H5 cases in wild birds reported by OIE in the last week were confirmed between October 2021 and January 2022.

Since our last assessment, **Austria** has not reported any further HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in domestic poultry but has reported five cases in non-commercial poultry and wild birds. Two of these cases were in backyard poultry premises and the other three cases involved one wild greylag goose (*Anser anser*), three mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) and two unspecified (*Anatidae*) species.

Belgium has not reported any further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry but has reported three cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds in the last week. The cases concerned one Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), one barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*) and a greylag goose (*Anser anser*).

Bulgaria has reported two further outbreaks of HPAI H5 in poultry since our last report. The affected premises were a Pekin duck farm with approximately 5,800 animals located within the 10km surveillance zone around the outbreak which occurred in the Haskovo region. A backyard flock of approximately 99 birds located in the north-eastern village of Feldfebel Denkovo was also reported.

According to OIE, there have been no further reports of HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in domestic poultry or cases in wild birds between 24 and 31 January in **Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, the Faroe Islands** and **Finland**. The Faroe Islands therefore still remains the most north-westerly point of the epizootic.

France has not reported any further HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in domestic poultry since 24 January 2022. There have been five further cases of HPAI H5N1 reported in wild birds,

four of which involved two mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) one common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) and two red knots (*Calidris canutus*), all of which were found via the SAGIR national network for wildlife disease surveillance. The fifth case involved a pink-backed pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*) at a zoo located in the Sigean commune in southern France. The zoo is close to a wetland which is frequented by wild birds, mainly flamingos which also stay inside the zoo. 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). The continued reports of wild birds affected by HPAI H5N1 and in particular the recent zoo case in Sigean suggest a continued high level of infection pressure in wildlife in France.

Germany has reported five outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry since our last report, according to OIE data. The outbreaks have affected two farms, one with fattening turkeys and one with laying hens. The other domestic poultry outbreaks occurred in backyard flocks of laying hens, chickens and a mixed flock of chickens and one pheasant. There have been 70 events of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds and non-commercial poultry reported by OIE since our last assessment, with unidentified *Anatidae* (52), *Laridae* (8), *Accipitridae* (6), *Ardeidae* (2) and *Ciconiidae* (1) species affected. There was also a report of HPAI H5N3 in a single unidentified *Anatidae*, although this case was confirmed in December 2021.

Hungary has reported an additional outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in the last week. The affected farm is located within the Southern Great Plain region of Hungary with approximately 800 laying hens. There have also been three reports of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds in Hungary since our last report, involving one mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), one rook (*Corvus frugilegus*) and one barn owl (*Tyto alba*).

There have been no further reports of HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in domestic poultry or cases in wild birds in **Latvia** or **Luxembourg** in the last week.

Moldova has reported HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry for the first time this HPAI season. The report involved a number of backyard poultry flocks with a total of approximately 2,800 animals within the Telenesti district.

The **Netherlands** has reported four outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in poultry since our last report. The affected premises comprise of two broiler farms with approximately 141 and 70 animals each, a fattening duck farm with approximately 2,985 animals and an organic layer premises with approximately 24,169 animals. There have been no further HPAI H5N1 cases in wild birds reported by OIE in the last week.

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

Poland has reported five further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry since our last assessment. Two outbreaks occurred in backyard hen flocks, the other three outbreaks affected farms with slaughter ducks and turkeys, plus a farm with breeder geese. There have also been six HPAI H5N1 events reported in wild birds since our last report, involving a total of 22 mute swans (*Cygnus olor*).

The **Republic of Ireland** has reported two cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds in the last week, according to OIE. These cases concerned two barnacle geese (*Branta leucopsis*) and a common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*).

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

Russia has not reported any outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry since our last report. Two cases of HPAI H5N1 have been reported in captive birds. The first case involved four mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) and the second involved a single unidentified bird from the *Anserinae* species.

Slovakia has reported no further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1, or cases in wild birds within the last week.

Slovenia has reported six further cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds in the last week, involving a total of 10 mute swans (*Cygnus olor*), one grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*).

Sweden has not reported any HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in domestic poultry in the last week. There have been three wild birds reported, these were two herring gulls (*Larus argentatus*) which were found with clinical signs and euthanised and one barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*) which was found dead.

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

Southern Europe (OIE data only, by report date)

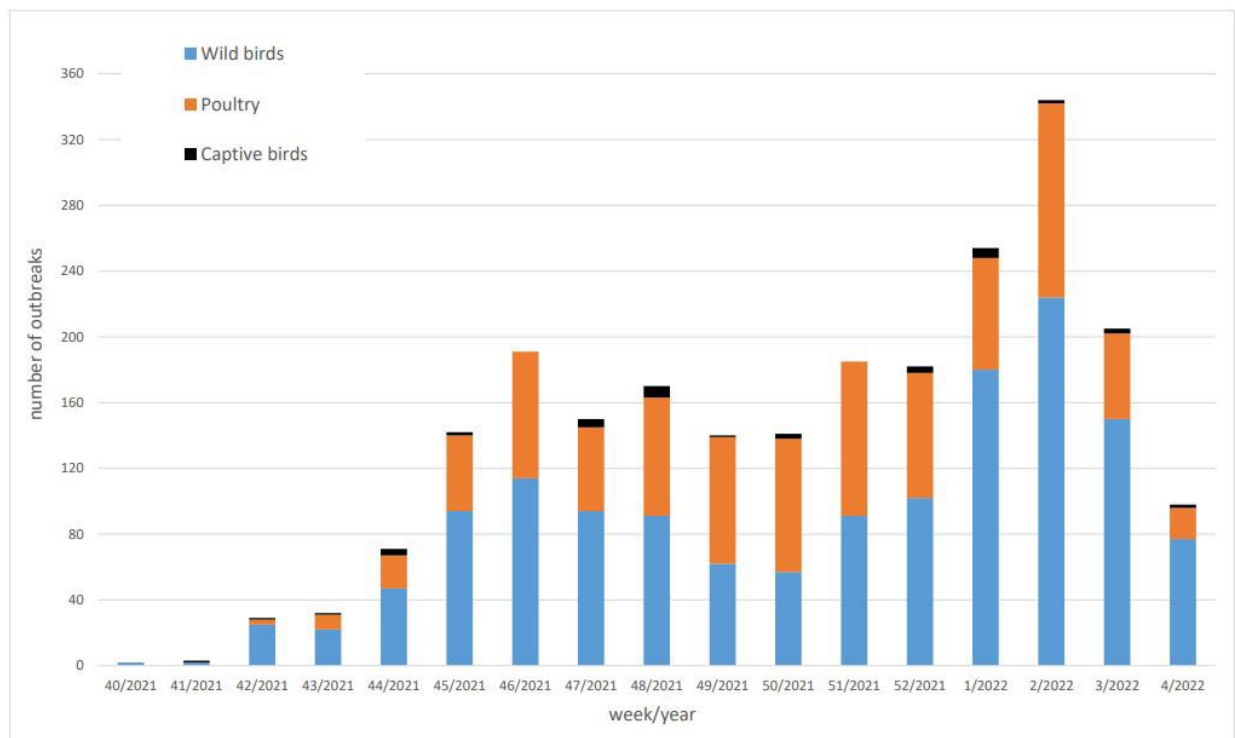
Italy has not reported any further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry in the last week, according to OIE. One HPAI H5N1 event has been reported, in which two wild common buzzards (*Buteo buteo*) tested positive after being found dead.

Portugal has reported one further HPAI H5N1 event since our last report. This involved two yellow-legged gulls (*Larus michahellis*) which were found dead on Baleal Beach, a

small island in the western region of Portugal. There is currently no further information available on the strain type.

Spain has not reported any further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry in the last week. There have been two cases of HPAI H5N1 reported, involving five greylag geese (*Anser anser*) and one white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*). The greylag geese were found dead close to the Bohodon lagoon which is located with the 10km radius of El Oso, where the first poultry outbreak of the season in Spain was detected. There is currently no further information available on the strain type.

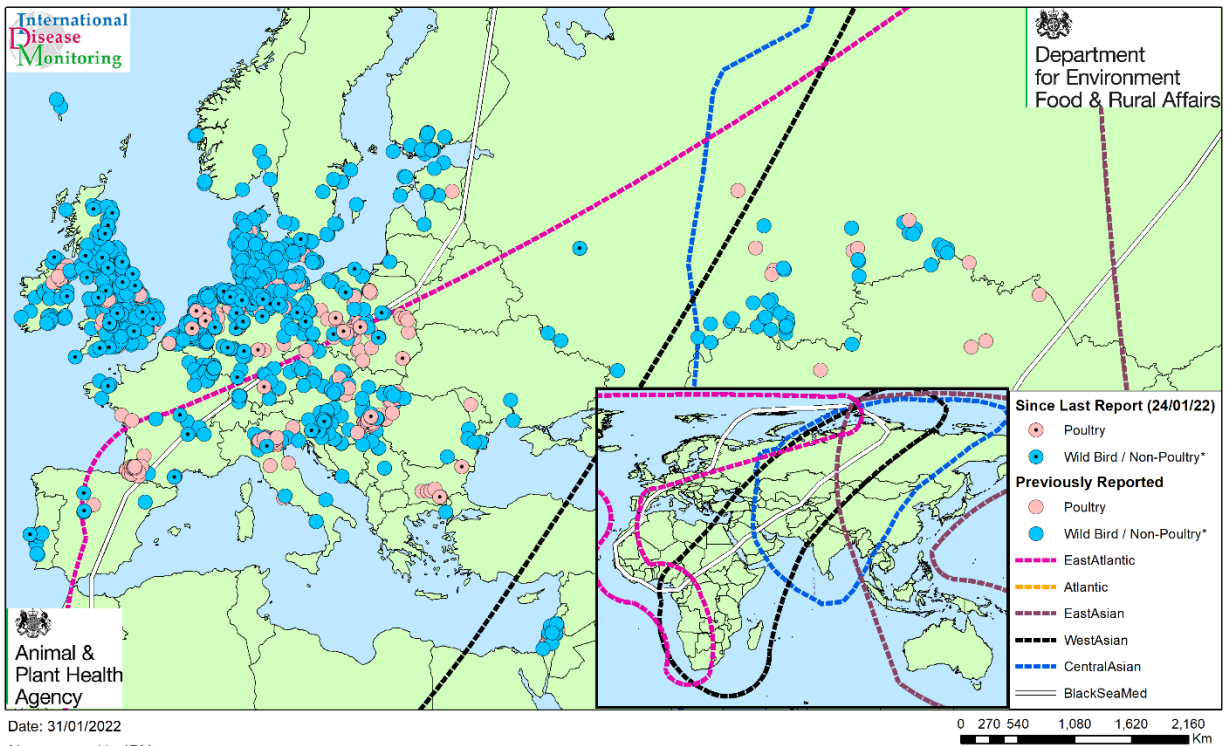
Figure 1: Number of HPAI positive events reported in poultry, captive and wild birds each week in Europe from October 2021 to 31 January 2022 (IZSVe, 2022)



The highest number of HPAI cases in wild birds and outbreaks in domestic poultry across Europe this HPAI season has been observed in the second week of 2022 (Figure 1). The first peak in wild bird cases occurred in week 46 of 2021. While wild bird cases declined over the last few weeks of 2021, weekly poultry outbreaks increased. Since the wild bird peak in week 2, cases in wild birds have steadily decreased, with less than 80 cases reported in week 4 compared to 230 in week 2. The number of outbreaks in domestic poultry has decreased by more than half between weeks 2 and 3, then showing a similar trend between weeks 3 and 4 of 2022.

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 31 January 2022. Those events reported since our last outbreak assessment on 24 January are distinguished with dots.

Map 3: HPAI outbreaks (from OIE) in poultry, captive, and wild birds across Europe, September 2021 to 31 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 reports of wild bird cases of HPAI H5N1 across GB, the domestic poultry and captive bird populations in GB remain under high 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, and there does appear to have been a second peak in wild bird cases in EU MS (IZSve 2022), as observed in previous epizootics. It should be noted that trends in wild bird cases in Europe are of little importance 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 have arrived by this stage of the winter.

Conclusion

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 575 confirmed cases of HPAI H5 in wild birds in GB to 31 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 continue to be 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 the stringency of applied biosecurity measures (PAFF 2022b).

HPAI H5 is continuing to circulate in both susceptible over-wintering migrant water birds and sedentary bird species within GB 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

Dr Lorna Freath

Anthony Pacey

Dr Paul Gale

Dr Lauren Perrin

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).*

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