

## Updated Outbreak Assessment #17

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

07 March 2022

Ref: VITT/1200 HPAI in the UK and Europe

### **Disease Report**

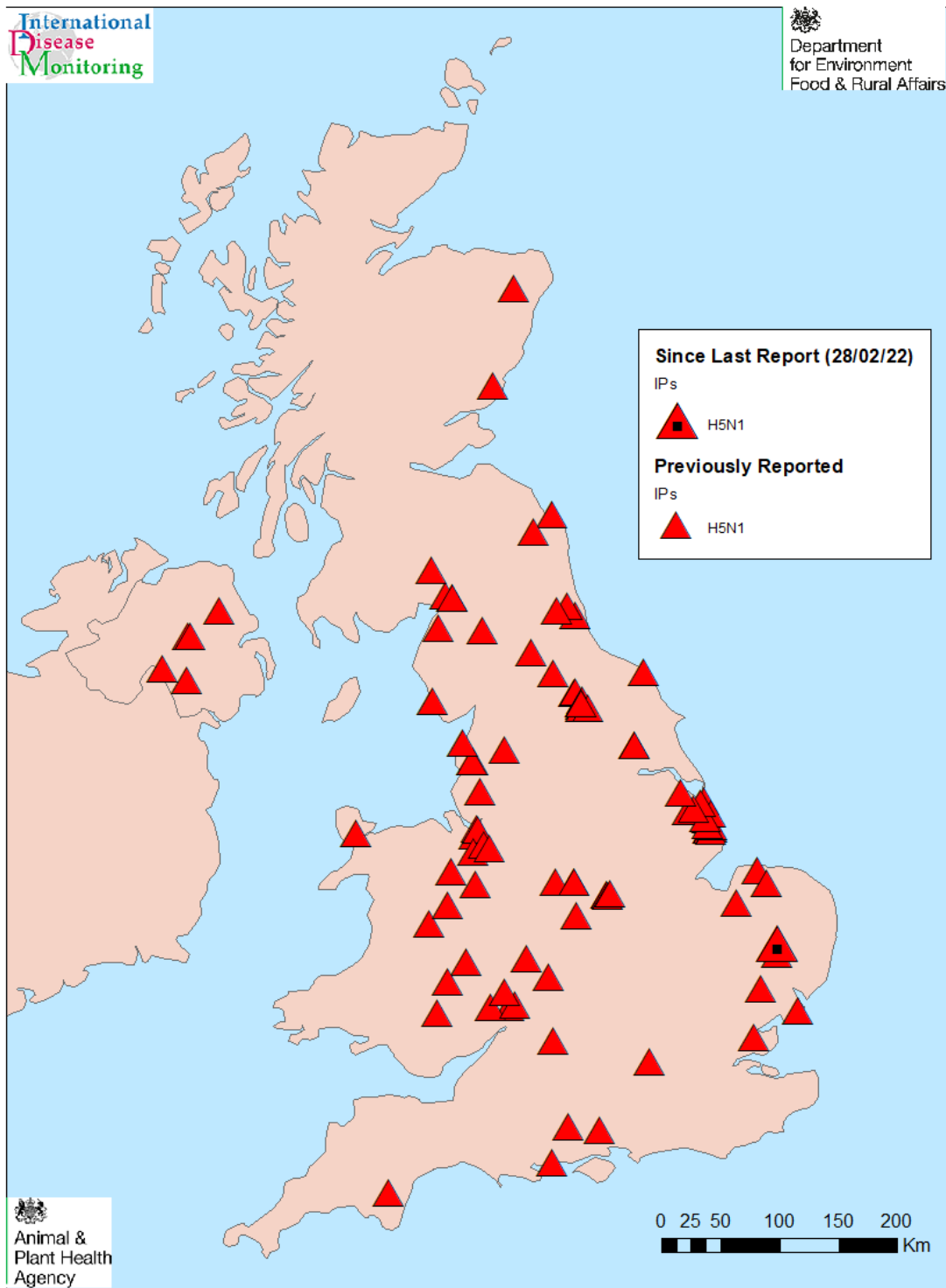
Since our last outbreak assessment on 28 February 2022, there continue to be reports of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 both in Europe and in the United Kingdom (UK). This includes one further confirmed outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry in the UK.

There has been a further confirmed outbreak of HPAI H5N1 at a poultry premises in Great Britain (GB) since our last assessment. The outbreak occurred in Suffolk, England. There have been no further HPAI H5N1 outbreaks confirmed in Northern Ireland (NI) since our last assessment (DAERA 2022).

Since 28 February 2022, OIE has reported outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry in France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain. The first outbreak of HPAI H5N2 has been confirmed at a poultry premises in Poland.

Non-poultry outbreaks and wild bird HPAI H5N1 cases continue to be reported in Belgium, France, Germany, the Republic of Ireland, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden.

Map 1: HPAI H5 outbreaks in poultry<sup>1</sup> and captive birds across the United Kingdom, October 2021 to 07 March 2022.



Date: 08/03/2022  
Map prepared by IDM

UK HPAI IPs  
October 2021 - March 2022

## Situation Assessment

### *United Kingdom*

The first detection of HPAI H5N1 virus this HPAI season was in rescued wild swans and captive poultry at a swan sanctuary in Worcester (England) on 15 October 2021. Since then, there have been 93 further confirmed outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in poultry and captive birds across Great Britain (Map 1), (Table 1) taking the total to 94. Of these 94 outbreaks, 83 have occurred in England, six have occurred in Scotland and five in Wales.

In the week since our last assessment on 28 February 2022 there has been one new outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in England, GB. The outbreak occurred in a commercial fattening duck premises within the county of Suffolk.

Since our last report, there have been no further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 confirmed in NI. The total number of poultry outbreaks in NI remains at six across the counties of Tyrone, Antrim, Armagh and Fermanagh (DAERA, 2022).

**Table 1: Poultry<sup>1</sup> and captive bird outbreaks of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in Great Britain since 1 October 2021, as of 07 March 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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



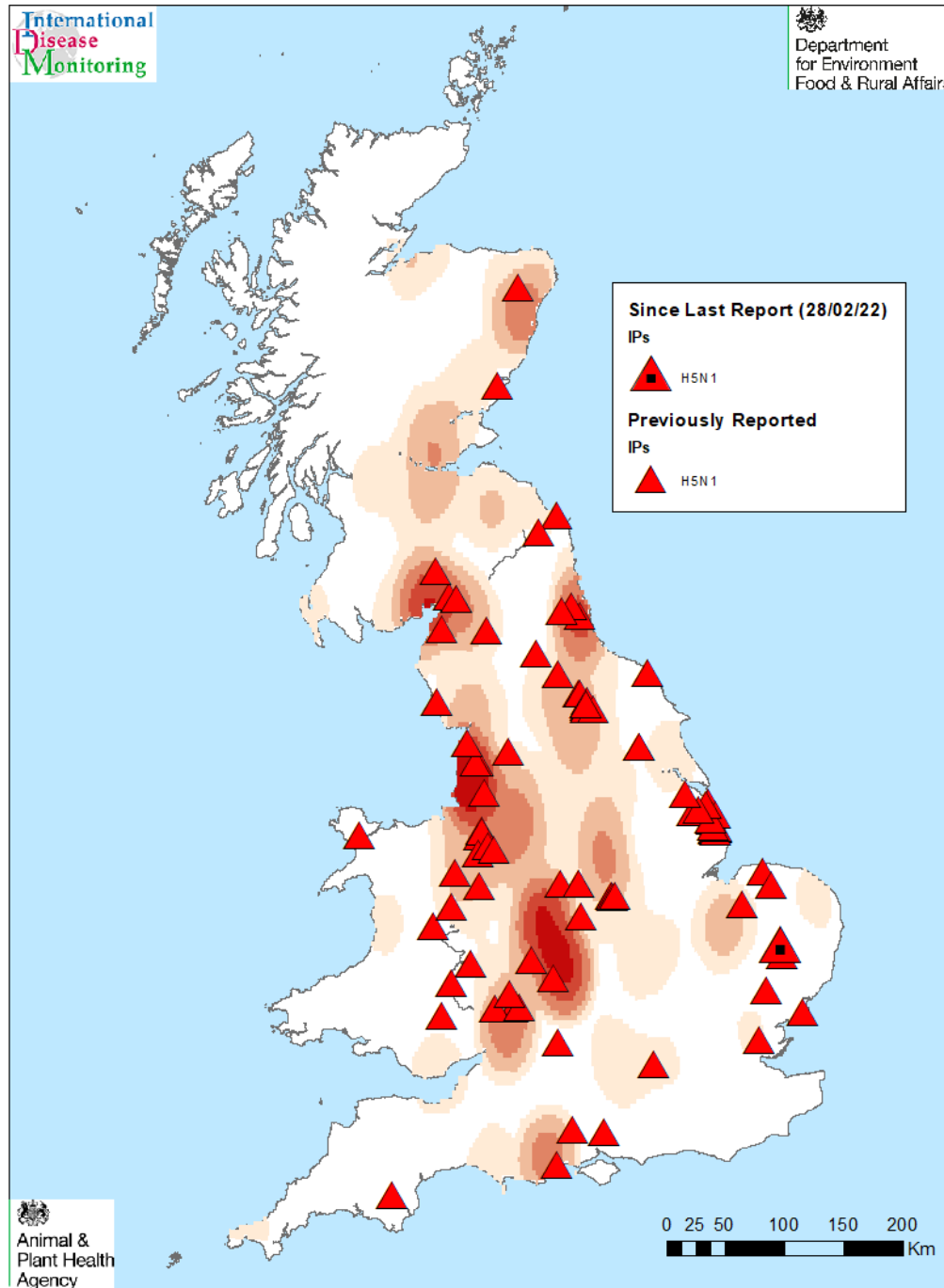
Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
67	31 December 2021	Near Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire	Backyard mixed species
68	31 December 2021	Near Melton Mowbray, Lincolnshire	Commercial turkeys
69	02 January 2022	Near Eton, Berkshire	Rescued wild swans
70	03 January 2022	Near 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
77	20 January 2022	Near Ross on Wye, Herefordshire	Backyard mixed species
78	22 January 2022	Near Crewe, Cheshire	Commercial turkeys
79	22 January 2022	Near Inverurie, Aberdeenshire	Backyard mixed species

Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
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
84	4 February 2022	Near Bishops Waltham, Hampshire	Commercial broiler breeder chickens
85	5 February 2022	Near Fakenham, Norfolk	Conservation park mixed species
86	9 February 2022	Near Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland	Backyard mixed species
87	14 February 2022	Near Wooler, Northumberland	Backyard mixed species
88	21 February 2022	Near Grimsby, Lincolnshire	Commercial rearing turkeys
89	21 February 2022	Near Newtown, Powys	Commercial breeding pheasants
90	21 February 2022	Near Welshpool, Powys	Commercial breeding pheasants
91	23 February 2022	Near Gateshead, Tyne and Wear	Commercial hobby flock mixed species

Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
92	25 February 2022	Near Ledbury, Herefordshire	Commercial game supplier
93	26 February 2022	Near Westhorpe, Suffolk	Smallholding mixed species
94	1 March 2022	Near Redgrave, Suffolk	Commercial fattening ducks

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

**Map 2: Map showing the relative density of HPAI H5 positive findings in wild birds and the outbreaks in poultry<sup>1</sup> and captive birds across GB October 2021 to 07 March 2022**



Date: 09/03/2022  
Map prepared by IDM

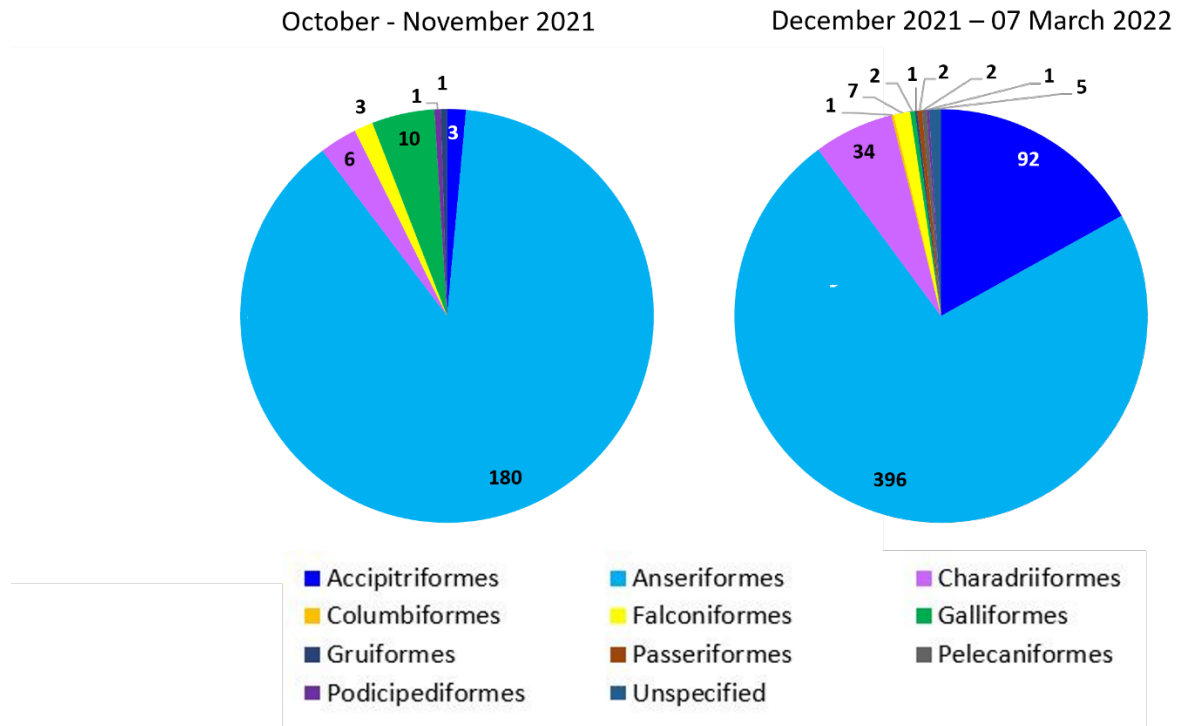
**GB HPAI Wild Bird Events (Heat Map) & IP's  
October 2021 - March 2022**

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

In the week since our last outbreak assessment on 28 February 2022, HPAI H5 has been detected in wild birds in a further 10 locations in GB, bringing the total to 222 separate wild bird positive locations, involving 36 different bird species in 72 separate counties (Table 2). There have been 23 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. During the current 2021/22 HPAI season, the highest numbers of confirmed wild bird cases of HPAI H5 have been observed around the Solway Firth, North Yorkshire, Lancashire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. While there has been a number of outbreaks of HPAI in poultry and captive bird premises within these areas, a large number of outbreaks have occurred in other areas such as Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk where the wild bird detection is lower (Map 2). This may suggest that although wild migratory waterbirds contribute significantly to the initial incursion of HPAI virus into the UK, other additional factors may also affect the extent of disease spread during the epidemic. These could include spread into smaller endemic wild bird species that are not detected as well as fomite spread.

Further analysis of the Order profile of HPAI positive wild birds throughout the current 2021/22 season has shown a shift with a greater variety of wild bird species overall and in particular, a greater proportion of birds of prey (*Accipitriformes*) species becoming infected as the outbreak has progressed (Figure 1).

**Figure 1 Number of HPAI H5 Wild bird positives by Order across the 2021-2022 HPAI season in GB**



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 07 March 2022**

Region and species	Total number of birds testing positive
<b>England</b>	<b>542</b>
Barnacle Goose	13
Bewick's Swan	1
Black headed gull	16
Black Swan	2
Canada Goose	105
Common Buzzard	45
Coot	1
Curlew	2
Goshawk	1
Great-crested Grebe	2
Grey Heron	2

Region and species	Total number of birds testing positive
Greylag goose	26
Guillemot	1
Gull	6
Herring Gull	7
Kestrel	5
Kittiwake	1
Lapwing	1
Little Gull	1
Mallard Duck	5
Mute Swan	206
Peregrine Falcon	4
Pheasant	7
Pink Footed Goose	16
Red Kite	1
Sea Eagle	1
Sparrowhawk	5
Unidentified Swan	17
Unspecified Duck	1
Unspecified Goose	12
Whooper Swan	28
Widgeon	1
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>181</b>
Barnacle Goose	32
Blackbird	1
Black headed gull	1
Canada Goose	3
Common Buzzard	35
Greylag Goose	8
Gull	2
Herring Gull	2
Kestrel	1
Magpie	1
Mute Swan	19
Pink Footed Goose	34
Red Kite	1
Sea Eagle	1
Sparrowhawk	3
Unidentified Swan	11
Unspecified Bird of Prey	2

Region and species	Total number of birds testing positive
Unspecified Duck	2
Unspecified Goose	15
Whooper Swan	7
<b>Wales</b>	<b>24</b>
Canada Goose	2
Common Buzzard	4
Greylag goose	1
Herring Gull	1
Mute Swan	8
Pheasant	5
Unidentified Swan	1
Unspecified Goose	1
Unspecified Pigeon	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>747</b>

## ***Europe***

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

**Table 3 Events (to 07 March 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)	H5N2 (P)	H5N3 (WB)	Total
Austria			31							31
Belgium	5		54	2						61
Bosnia and Herzegovina			2							2



Country	H5 (WB)	H5 (P)	H5N1 (WB)	H5N1 (P)	H5N8 (WB)	H5N8 (P)	H5N2 (WB)	H5N2 (P)	H5N3 (WB)	Total
Bulgaria		10								10
Croatia			8	2						10
Czech Republic			17	4						21
Denmark		1	96	4	1	1				103
Estonia			9		2	1				12
Faroe Islands			1							1
Finland			12		2					14
France			65	275						340
Germany			869	62			1		1	933
Greece			1							1
Hungary			28	113						141
Ireland			69	6						75
Italy			21	246						267
Latvia			2							2
Lithuania			2							2
Luxembourg			4							4



### ***Northern Europe (OIE data only, by report date)***

In the week since our last outbreak assessment on 28 February 2022, HPAI H5 has been reported in 10 European countries (OIE). The total number of European countries affected this HPAI season according to IZS<sub>Ve</sub> (2022) is currently 32.

Since our last assessment, **Belgium** has not reported any outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry but has reported two cases of H5N1 in a wild barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*) and a wild common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*).

There have been 59 further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in commercial poultry in **France** reported by OIE within the last week. The majority (38) of these 59 outbreaks occurred in commercial duck premises. A further two outbreaks have been reported in non-commercial backyard poultry premises; one with 22 geese and one with three red junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*). There have also been two HPAI H5N1 events reported in wild birds, involving a mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) and a whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*).

**Germany** has reported five more outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry since our last report, according to OIE data. Four of these outbreaks occurred within the same municipality of Garrel, Cloppenburg in Lower Saxony. The number of birds at these premises ranged from 9,582 to 21,992. The fifth outbreak occurred in the town of Güsten, Salzlandkreis in Saxony-Anhalt and there were 55 birds on this farm. There have also been 22 events of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds reported since our last assessment, with unidentified *Anatidae* (16), *Cygnus* (5), *Accipitridae* (4), *Laridae* (4), *Ciconiidae* (2) and *Ardeidae* (1) species affected.

The **Netherlands** has reported four further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in poultry since our last report, based on OIE data. Two of these outbreaks were confirmed in the Gelderland province on a breeding poultry site in Wageningen with 532 birds affected and a fattening turkey premises in Hedel with 2,090 birds affected. The other two outbreaks occurred on a broiler farm in Son en Breugel, just outside Eindhoven, with 333 birds affected, and a rearing layer farm in Woltersum, Groningen for which 5 birds were reportedly affected by HPAI H5N1. There have been no further HPAI H5N1 cases in wild birds reported by OIE in the last week.

**Poland** has reported 10 further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry since our last assessment, based on OIE data. Briefly, five of these outbreaks occurred in slaughter duck premises, the other five sites reportedly kept mixed birds (ducks, hens, peacocks, quail and pheasants) for slaughter, turkeys for slaughter, laying hens, broiler chickens and hens, respectively. There has also been an outbreak of HPAI H5N2 reported in a backyard flock of hens, ducks and pigeons (total 79 birds) located in

Równe, northwestern Poland, which is the first report of a new strain of H5N2 in the country.

There have been no further reports of HPAI H5N1 in poultry in the **Republic of Ireland** in the last week but there have been two further events in wild birds reported. These events involved a kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) and a barn owl (*Tyto alba*).

**Slovakia** has not reported any further outbreaks of HPAI in poultry since our last assessment but has reported three HPAI H5N1 wild bird events, involving a total of six mute swans (*Cygnus olor*).

In **Sweden**, there has been an outbreak of HPAI H5N1 reported in a non-commercial backyard flock of 35 chickens located in Vellinge within the southern county of Skåne. There have been no reports of HPAI in commercial poultry or wild birds within the last week.

#### ***Southern Europe (OIE data only, by report date)***

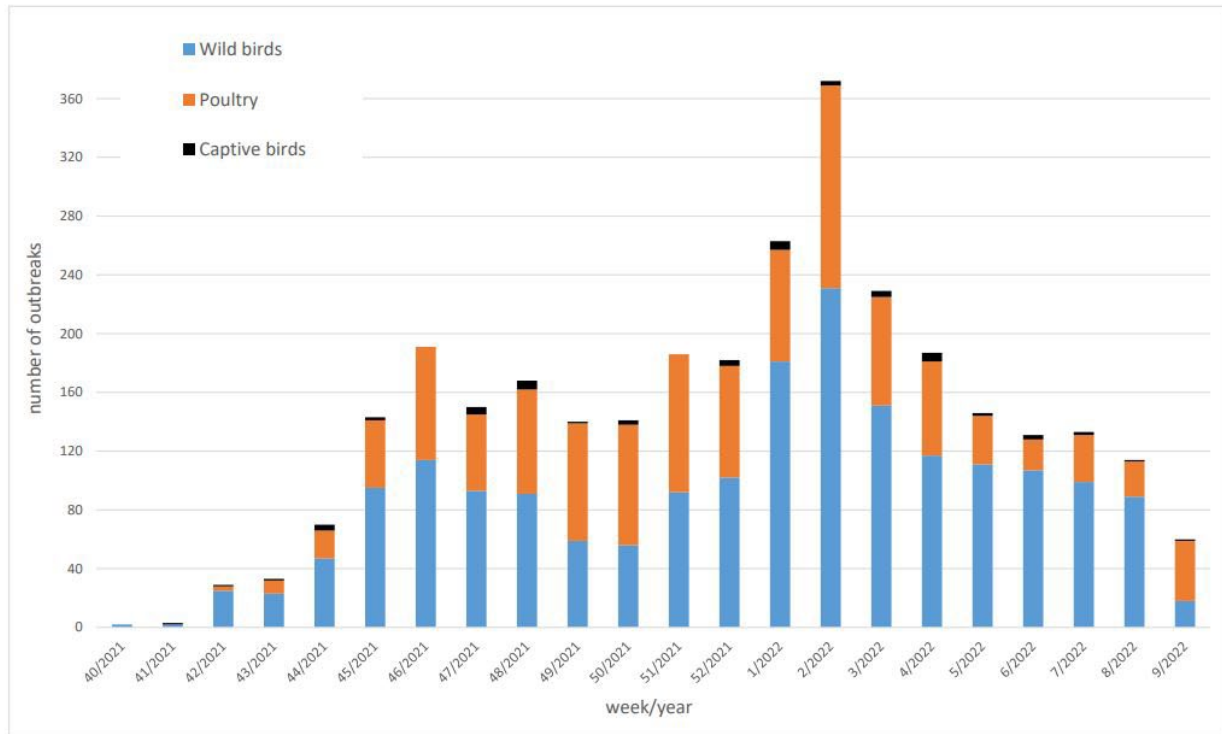
**Italy** has reported three further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in poultry since our last report. Two of these farms are located in the Lombardy region and reported to have multiple species on site, with 71 birds at one site located in Sorico, Como and 70 birds at the other farm located in Casalmorano, Cremona. Interestingly this latter premises involved 22 rock doves (*Columba livia*). The third outbreak occurred in a commercial broiler farm with 24,000 birds affected, located in Pianfei, Cuneo within the Piedmont region. There have also been three HPAI H5N1 events in wild birds reported in the last week according to OIE. These events involved a long-eared owl (*Asio otus*), a yellow-legged gull (*Larus michahellis*) and a common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*).

**Spain** has reported a further five outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry in the last week. Four of the affected farms reported a total number of birds ranging from 5,500 to 26,880. No further information on the species affected is currently available. All five of the affected premises are located in Seville; two in Gilena, and one farm each in Martin de la Jara, Osuna and El Rubio. There have been six further HPAI H5N1 events reported in wild birds since our last assessment. These cases comprised of three greylag geese (*Anser anser*), one common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), one mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), one common crane (*Grus grus*), one Caspian gull (*Larus cachinnans*) and an unspecified hawk of the order *Accipitridae*.

According to OIE, there have been no further reports of HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in domestic poultry or cases in wild birds between 28 February and 07 March in **Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania,**

Luxembourg, Moldova, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Switzerland or Ukraine.

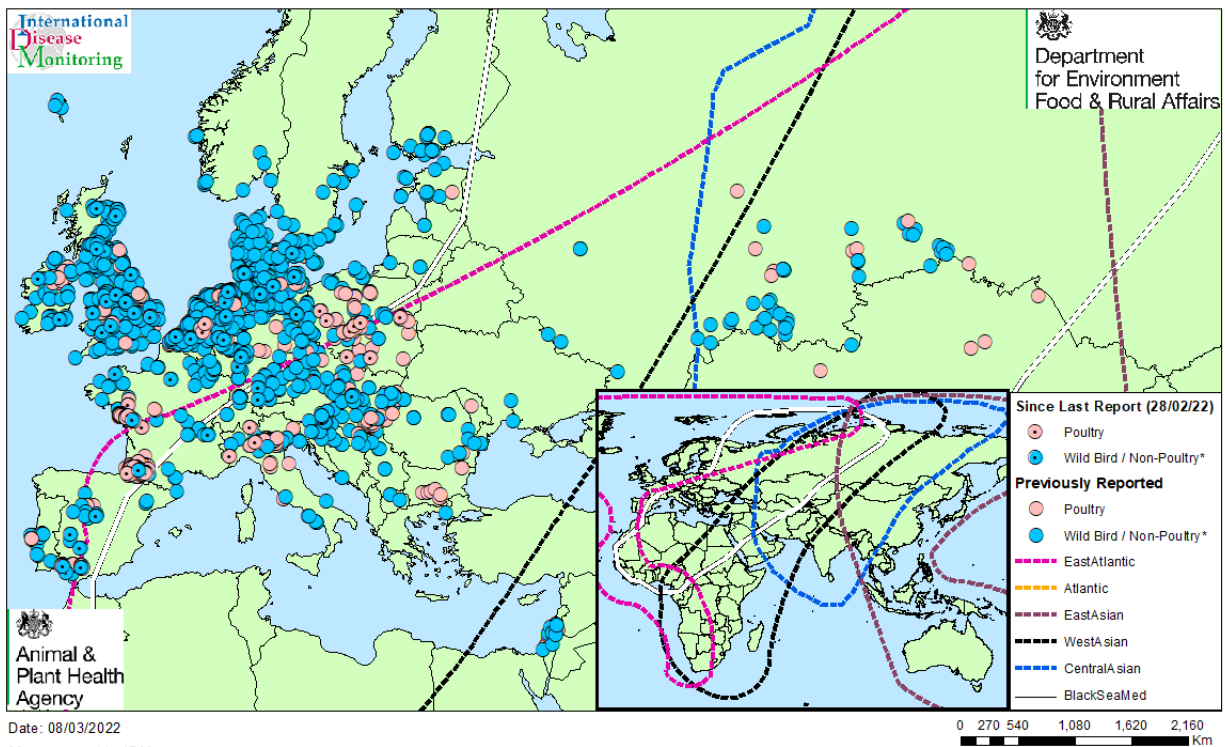
**Figure 2: Number of HPAI positive events reported in poultry, captive and wild birds each week in Europe from October 2021 to 07 March 2022 (IZSVe, 2022)**



Across Europe, the number of poultry/captive bird outbreaks reported weekly appears to have levelled at around 20 per week (Figure 2) after decreasing from around 120 in week 2, although almost 40 have been reported in week 9. However, the overall numbers observed are roughly a third higher than those in the same time period in the [2020/21 season, week 6 and 7](#). There was a similar number of outbreaks reported in week 8 across the two seasons. At this point in the season last year, a third wave and peak were observed across Europe; possibly as migratory birds began to make their return journeys. There is still a high number of outbreaks being reported across Europe with some 90 cases in week 7, therefore, it seems likely that a long tail of residual HPAI infection may be anticipated into the spring months at least, particularly in wild birds.

The map below (Map 3) shows the distribution of HPAI H5 outbreaks in poultry and captive birds together with cases in wild birds in Europe reported to OIE between September 2021 and 07 March 2022. Those events reported since our last outbreak assessment on 28 February are distinguished with dots.

**Map 3: HPAI outbreaks (from OIE) in poultry, captive, and wild birds across Europe, September 2021 to 07 March 2022.**



**Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Poultry and Non-Poultry\***

September 2021 - March 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 good, the ongoing high wild bird infection pressure will highlight any weaknesses that exist. Given the continued infection pressure posed by wild birds across the UK, it is imperative that biosecurity is maintained fully to mitigate the risk of infection. There has been an unprecedented number of poultry outbreaks and wild bird cases reported in the 2021/22 season not only for the UK but also across Europe. Although the number of wild bird cases of HPAI H5 appear to be decreasing across Europe (Figure 2), the continued reports of wild bird cases suggest that a long tail of the epizootic may be expected in the UK similar to that in Europe (Figure 2). It should be noted that trends in wild bird cases in Europe are of little direct importance as a predictor for the UK during the spring as

those birds that migrated during the autumn/winter from continental Europe to overwinter in GB will begin their return journeys in late March and in early April.

## Conclusion

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

Numbers of migrating wild water birds (ducks, geese, and some swan species) peaked in GB in December/January and these birds will begin their return journey through Europe during March. There have been 747 confirmed cases of HPAI H5 in wild birds in GB to 07 March 2022 across a range of species, including a significant number of resident sedentary birds of species such as mute swan, Canada goose, some raptors (including 84 buzzards across GB to 7 March) and a pigeon indicating that exposure to infection within GB is still occurring. Furthermore, the wild bird species 'order shift' observed (Figure 1) demonstrates that a greater proportion of potential bridging species such as pigeons, gulls and pheasants have tested positive as the outbreak has developed. In addition, the proportion of bird orders represented by raptors has increased. This is expected as the waterfowl species would likely be the initial birds exposed to infection from migratory water birds from Europe then, as infection persists in the population, more native, sedentary species are likely to be exposed to the HPAI virus through the environment. In continental Europe, pigeons, corvids and sparrows which could also serve as bridging species continue to be reported as infected.

HPAI virus H5 is continuing to circulate within GB. 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 of 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 and reviewing the risk.

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 the following dead wild birds 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):

- Three or more swans or geese.
- Any number of ducks, gulls, waders and raptors
- Five or more birds of any species



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



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