

Updated Outbreak Assessment #18

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

14 March 2022

Ref: VITT/1200 HPAI in the UK and Europe

Disease Report

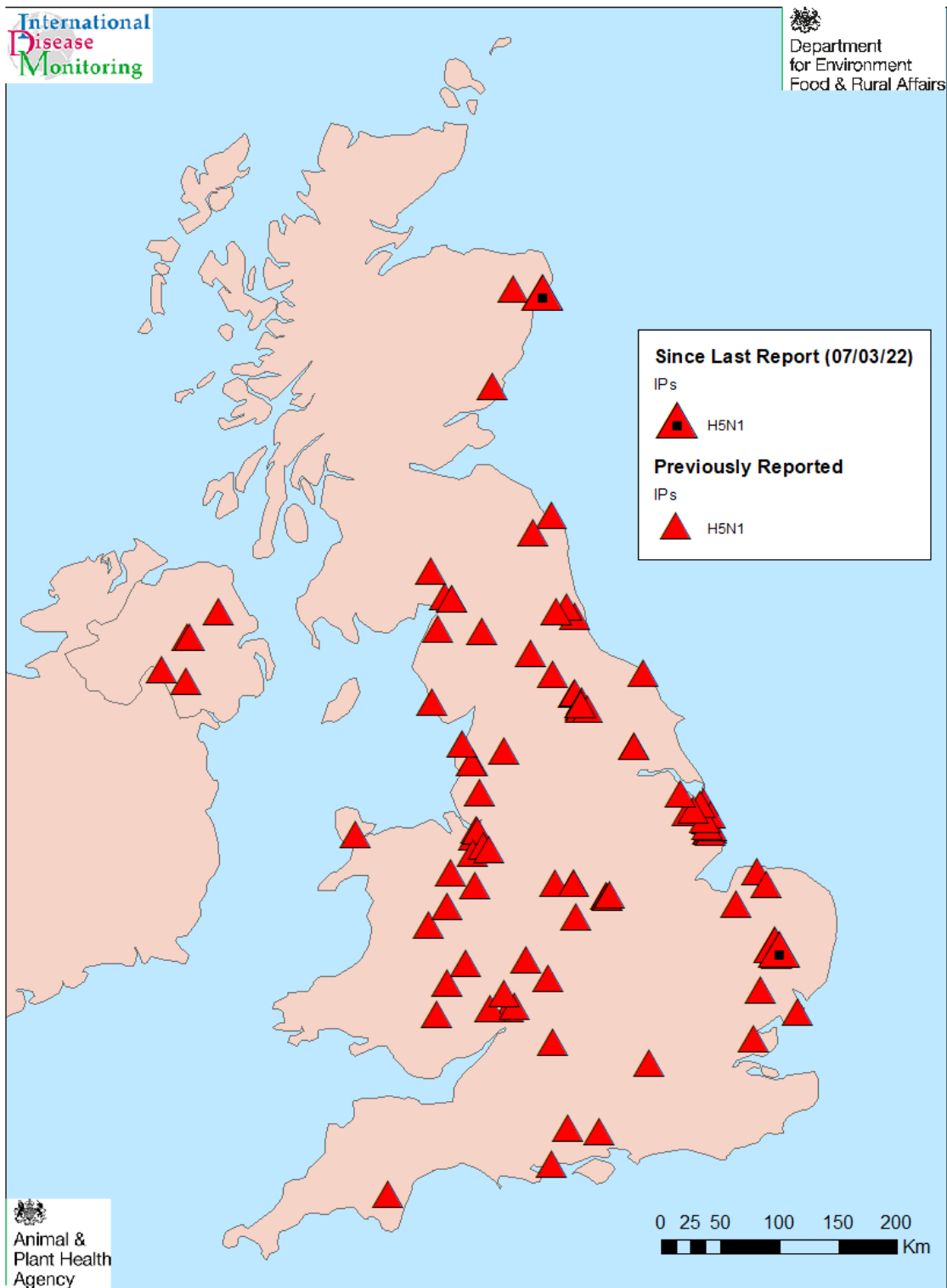
Since our last outbreak assessment on 07 March 2022, there continue to be reports of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 both in Europe and in the United Kingdom (UK). This includes three further confirmed outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry in the UK. Of particular note in Europe is the large increase in poultry outbreaks in western France recently.

Three further confirmed outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in poultry premises in Great Britain (GB) since our last assessment have occurred: one in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and two in Suffolk, England. There have been no further HPAI H5N1 outbreaks confirmed in Northern Ireland (NI) since our last assessment (DAERA 2022).

Since 07 March 2022, OIE has reported outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry in the Netherlands, Poland and Russia.

Non-poultry outbreaks and wild bird HPAI H5N1 cases continue to be reported in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Greece, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain.

Map 1: HPAI H5 outbreaks in poultry¹ and captive birds across the United Kingdom, October 2021 to 14 March 2022.



Date: 14/03/2022
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 96 further confirmed outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in poultry and captive birds across Great Britain (Map 1), (Table 1) taking the total to 97. Of these 97 outbreaks, 85 have occurred in England, seven have occurred in Scotland and five in Wales.

In the week since our last assessment on 07 March 2022 there have been three new outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in GB, two of which were in England and one in Scotland. The outbreaks occurred in a backyard flock of mixed species in Aberdeenshire and in two commercial premises in Suffolk: one with fattening ducks and one with fattening ducks and chickens.

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: Poultry¹ and captive bird outbreaks of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in Great Britain since 1 October 2021, as of 14 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

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

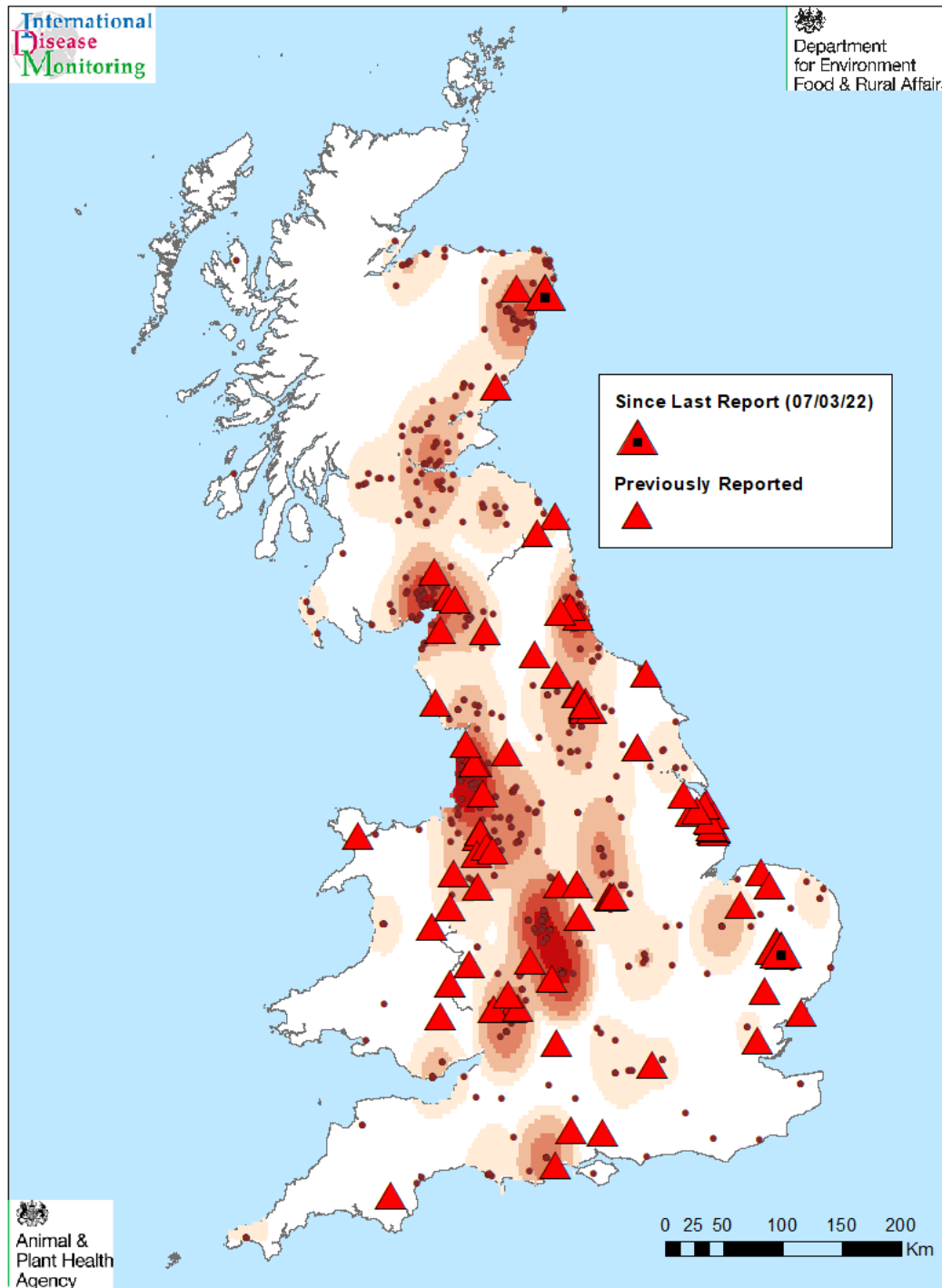
Outbreak Count	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description
67	31 December 2021	Near Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire	Backyard mixed species
68	31 December 2021	Near Melton Mowbray, Lincolnshire	Commercial turkeys
69	02 January 2022	Near Eton, Berkshire	Rescued wild swans
70	03 January 2022	Near 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
95	11 March 2022	Near Ellon, Aberdeenshire	Backyard mixed species
96	11 March 2022	Near Diss, Suffolk	Commercial fattening ducks
97	12 March 2022	Near Diss, Suffolk	Commercial fattening ducks and chickens

¹ 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 poultry¹ and captive birds across GB October 2021 to 15 March 2022



Date: 15/03/2022
Map prepared by IDM

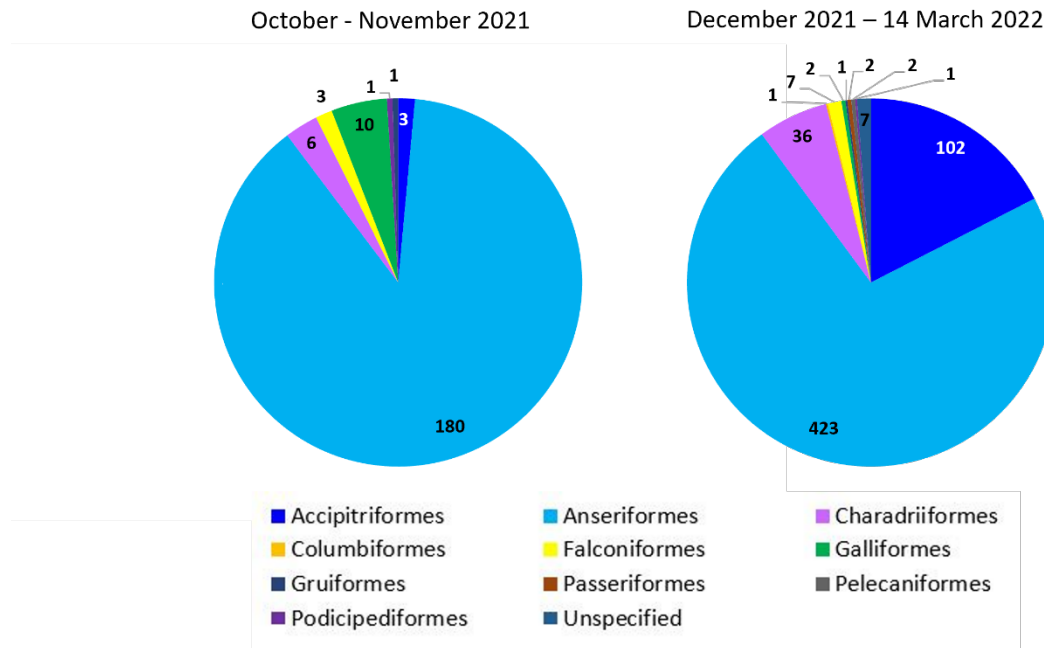
**GB HPAI Wild Bird Events (Heat Map) & IP's
October 2021 - March 2022**

¹According 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 07 March 2022, HPAI H5 has been detected in wild birds in a further seven locations in GB, bringing the total to 229 separate wild bird positive locations, involving 38 different bird species (listed in Table 2) in 72 separate counties. The total number of positive wild bird findings is 786 with most in England (Table 2). In the last week, further analysis of the HPAI H5 virus isolated from a wild swan has determined the N subtype as N8. Though this is the first confirmation of the H5N8 strain for the 2021/22 season, the bird was found soon after the beginning of the season in November 2021 and the lack of any subsequent H5N8 findings suggests this may be an isolated incident of relatively little epidemiological significance. There have been 29 cases for which the H5 genotype has been identified but the N subtype has not due to very low viral load. These cases are currently undergoing further processing to identify the N subtype. The spread of HPAI across GB and the location of confirmed infected premises (IPs) in areas of both high and low density wild bird positive cases (Map 2) suggests that although wild migratory waterbirds contribute significantly to the initial incursion of HPAI H5 virus into the UK, other additional factors may also affect the extent of disease spread during the epizootic within the UK. These could include spread into 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 14 March 2022

Region and species	Total number of birds testing positive
England	550
Barnacle Goose	13
Bewick's Swan	1
Black headed gull	16
Black Swan	2
Canada Goose	105
Common Buzzard	48
Common Eider	1
Coot	1
Curlew	2
Goshawk	1
Great-crested Grebe	2
Grey Heron	2
Greylag goose	26
Guillemot	1

Region and species	Total number of birds testing positive
Gull sp	6
Herring Gull	7
Kestrel	5
Kittiwake	1
Lapwing	1
Little Gull	1
Mallard Duck	5
Mute Swan	208
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	30
Wigeon	1
Scotland	209
Barnacle Goose	32
Blackbird	1
Black headed gull	1
Canada Goose	3
Common Buzzard	40
Greylag Goose	9
Gull sp	4
Herring Gull	2
Kestrel	1
Magpie	1
Mute Swan	21
Pink Footed Goose	41
Red Kite	1
Sea Eagle	2
Sparrowhawk	5
Unidentified Swan	12
Unspecified Bird of Prey	3
Unspecified Duck	2
Unspecified Goose	19

Country	H5 (WB)	H5 (P)	H5N1 (WB)	H5N1 (P)	H5N8 (WB)	H5N8 (P)	H5N2 (WB)	H5N2 (P)	H5N3 (WB)	Total
Croatia			8	2						10
Czech Republic			18	4						22
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			3							3
Hungary			28	113						141
Ireland			69	6						75
Italy			21	246						267
Latvia			2							2
Lithuania			2							2
Luxembourg			4							4
Moldova				1						1

Northern Europe (OIE data only, by report date)

In the week since our last outbreak assessment on 07 March 2022, HPAI H5 has been reported in 10 European countries (OIE). The total number of European countries affected this HPAI season according to IZSve (2022) is currently 32.

Since our last assessment, **Belgium** has not reported any outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry but has reported one case of H5N1 in a wild common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*).

The **Czech Republic** has not reported any further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in commercial poultry within the last week but has reported an outbreak in a non-commercial backyard flock comprising of 166 hens, 11 geese, 4 turkeys, 1 duck and 2 quails. The holding is located in Příšimasy which is in the Central Bohemian Region of the country.

Although there have been no further reports of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry or wild birds in **France** in the last week, a recent ministerial update on the disease situation has commented on the 649 outbreaks of HPAI confirmed in poultry as of 11 March 2022; with rapid spread currently being observed in the Vendée and Loire-Atlantique departments (<https://agriculture.gouv.fr/influenza-aviaire-la-situation-en-france>). In the most recent presentations to the European Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feeds (PAFF), France considered that airborne transmission of HPAI H5N1 may be playing an important role this season, following a high number of outbreaks confirmed in the South-West region. This was despite performing preventative depopulation, and many of those premises that were depopulated were found to be infected with HPAI. The presentation also acknowledged the potential roles of high-level viral excretion prior to clinical signs occurring, and failures in biosecurity in disease spread (PAFF, 2022). This has led to the extension of restriction zones and the creation of large 'Zones at Risk of Diffusion' (ZRD) (Gouv.fr, 2022).

The **Netherlands** has reported three further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in poultry since our last report, based on OIE data. Two of these outbreaks were confirmed in the town of Hellum, Midden-Groningen on a fattening turkey farm with 23,714 birds and a layer rearing/laying hen premises with 2,000 birds affected. The other outbreak occurred on a broiler farm in the town of Losdorp, Groningen, with 40 birds affected. There have been no further HPAI H5N1 cases in wild birds reported by OIE in the last week.

Poland has reported one further outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry since our last assessment, based on OIE data. The outbreak occurred at a farm in the village of Kiełpiny, located in northern Poland and there have been 197 deaths reported. No further information on the total number or species of birds at the premises is currently

available. There have been no further reports of HPAI events in wild birds in Poland since our last report.

In **Romania**, there have been no further reports of HPAI H5N1 in poultry in the last week, there has been one HPAI H5N1 event reported involving a single mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) in the lake Bâta Doamnei, northeastern Romania.

Russia has reported two further outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in the last week. One outbreak was confirmed as HPAI H5 at farm located in Borovskaya, Verkhovazhsky District. No further information on the N subtype is available currently. The other outbreak of HPAI H5N1 occurred at a farm in Gulyaj-Borisovskaya, Syamzhensky District. No further information on the number or species of birds kept at either of the premises is currently available. There have been no further HPAI events reported in wild birds in Russia since our last assessment.

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

Southern Europe (OIE data only, by report date)

In **Greece**, there have not been any reports of HPAI in poultry during the 2021/22 season according to OIE. There have been two further events in wild birds reported in the last week. One event involved two mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) which were found dead in Lake Orestiada, north-western Greece. The other event concerned 570 Dalmatian pelicans (*Pelecanus crispus*) which were found dead in the Prespa National Park, which covers parts of Greece, Albania and Macedonia and holds the world's largest population of Dalmatian pelicans.

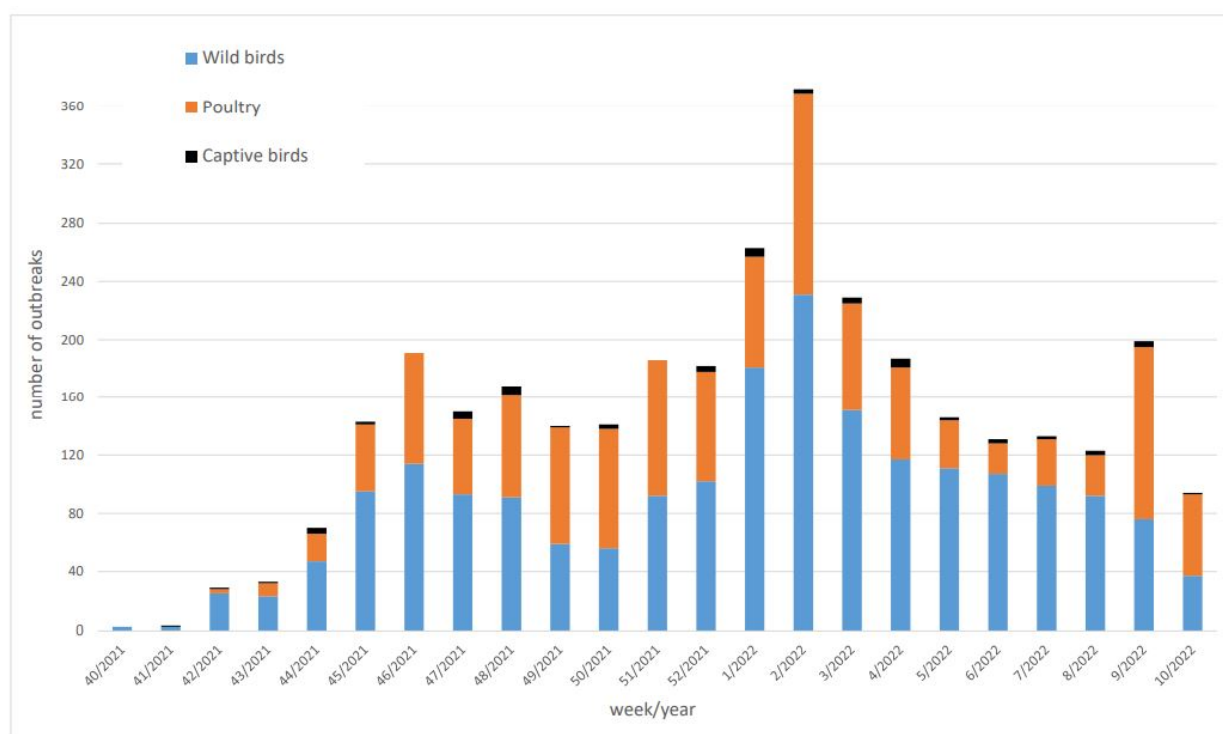
Portugal has not reported any further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in commercial poultry but there have been two outbreaks reported in non-commercial backyard flocks since our last assessment. One of these outbreaks was confirmed in a hobby flock of ducks, chickens, peacocks and guineafowl (total 13 birds) located in Odivelas, Lisbon. The other outbreak occurred in a hobby flock of chickens (total 60 birds) located in Gião, Porto. There has also been another HPAI H5N1 event reported, involving a single white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) which was found sick in a national park in Silves, Algarve and then died at a wildlife rescue centre.

Spain has not reported any further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry in the last week but there have been three further HPAI H5N1 events reported in wild birds. These cases included one Bonelli's eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) and one white stork (*Ciconia*

Ciconia) in two separate events. The third event involved two greylag geese (*Anser anser*) and one grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*).

According to OIE, there have been no further reports of HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in domestic poultry or cases in wild birds between 07 March and 14 March in **Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, the Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Ireland, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Sweden, 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 14 March 2022 (IZSVe, 2022)

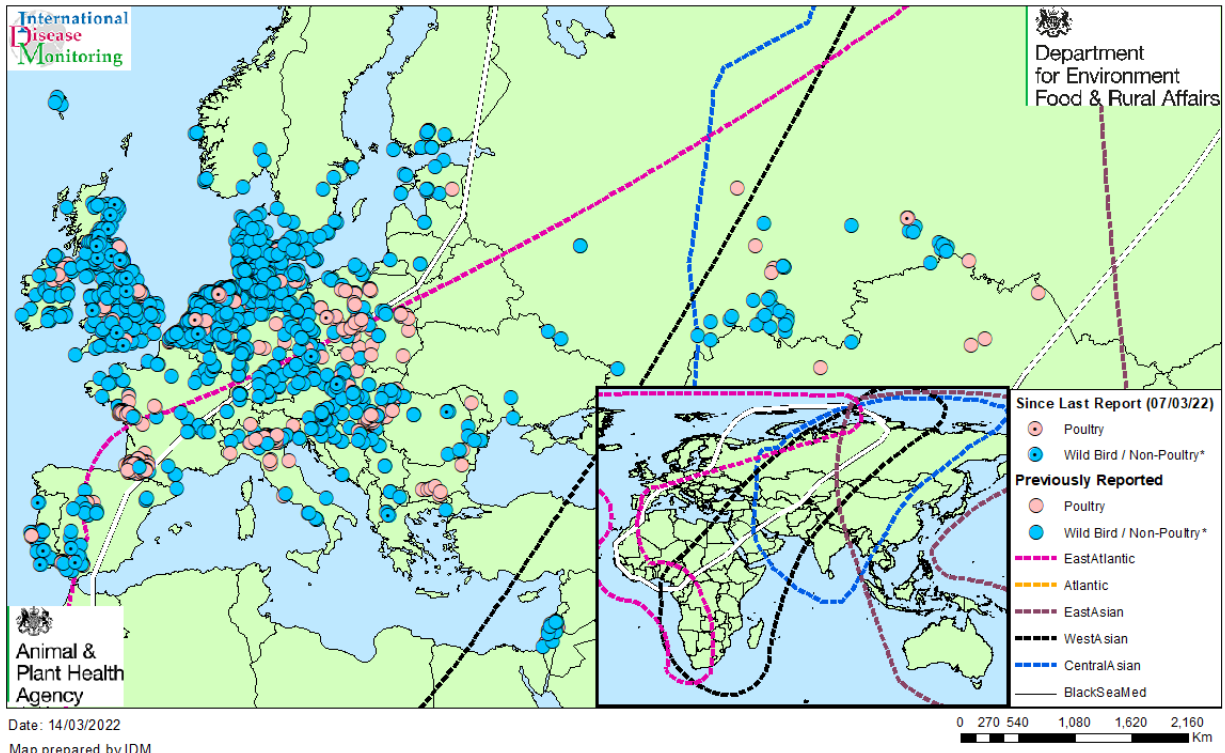


Across Europe, the number of poultry/captive bird outbreaks reported weekly appears to have increased to 120 in week 9 from around 30 in week 8 (Figure 2) after decreasing steadily from a similar peak of around 120 in week 2. This increase in week 9 is mainly due to the outbreaks in France for which the total is now 620. Around 50 outbreaks have been reported so far in week 10. Cases of HPAI infection particularly in wild birds may still be anticipated into the spring months at least in Europe.

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 14 March 2022. Those events reported since our last outbreak

assessment on 07 March are distinguished with dots, although many of the French poultry outbreaks are yet to be reported on OIE.

Map 3: HPAI outbreaks (from OIE) in poultry, captive, and wild birds across Europe, September 2021 to 14 March 2022.



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Poultry and Non-Poultry*

October 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 an extended gradual decline 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. As the spring progresses the migratory ducks, geese and swans will depart the UK and Europe reducing the infection pressure, while sedentary wild bird species will disperse from their winter aggregates in the UK. This together with higher temperature and increased sunlight which inactivate the virus will reduce the wild bird risk in the coming months, although how rapidly cannot be predicted given the scale of the current epizootic.

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 786 confirmed cases of HPAI H5 in wild birds in GB to 14 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 92 buzzards across GB to 14 March) and two pigeons 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 in autumn then, as infection spreads in the population, more native, sedentary wild bird species are 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](#)

[France situation update \(Gouv.fr, 2022\): https://agriculture.gouv.fr/influenza-aviaire-la-situation-en-france](https://agriculture.gouv.fr/influenza-aviaire-la-situation-en-france)

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

PAFF (2022) https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2022-02/reg-com_ahw_20220210_hpai_fra.pdf



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