

Updated Outbreak Assessment #5

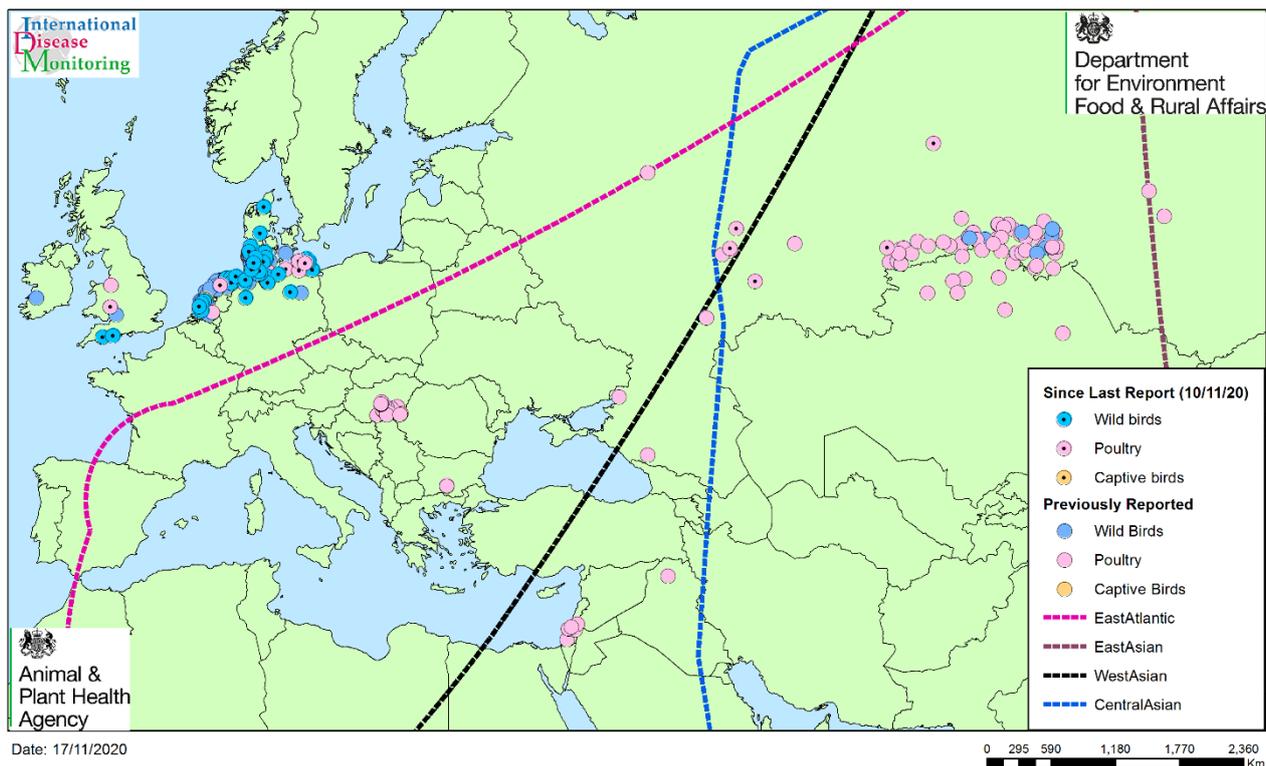
Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the UK, and Europe

17 November 2020

Ref: VITT/1200 HPAI in the UK and Europe

Disease Report

Since our last report on 10 November, in the **United Kingdom** there have been two new reports of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds, and one new outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in domestic poultry; in Herefordshire. In the **Netherlands** there have been six reports of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds. **Germany** has reported 76 cases of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds, and four outbreaks in poultry. **Denmark** has reported five cases of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds.



Highly pathogenic avian influenza in Poultry, Captive and Wild birds
May - November 2020
Overlay: migratory bird flyways

Situation Assessment

Since our last report on 10 November, there have been new reports of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds and in domestic poultry in the **United Kingdom**. The first report in domestic poultry

was on 03 November, in the north-west (NW) of England. Since then, on 12 November a second infected premises was reported with HPAI H5N8 in domestic poultry, near Leominster, in Herefordshire. This was a premises with broiler breeder chickens. A 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone have been put in place around the infected premises.

The first report of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds in the UK was on 09 November at a site in Gloucestershire, where five wild birds (a greylag goose and four Canada geese) were found dead on 03 November. On 11 November, there was a second report of HPAI H5N8 in the UK in wild black swans, near Dawlish, in Devon. The third report of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds in the UK was on 12 November, near Weymouth, in Dorset: HPAI H5N8 was identified in one Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) which was found dead on 09 November. As these wild birds are all considered to be native, sedentary species, they must have been infected via introduction by other species of migratory birds.

HPAI H5N8 in Western Europe

Since our last report on 10 November, there have been six further HPAI H5N8 cases in wild birds in the **Netherlands**. In addition to this, on 10 November there was one report of HPAI H5N8 in 25 captive birds of mixed 'wild bird species'. These events represent a wide geographical distribution in wild birds and domestic poultry across the **Netherlands** (see map).

Since our last report on 10 November, in **Germany** there have been 76 further reports of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds. All continue to be in the north of the country. While the majority were in South Jutland, there were five cases around Hamburg, and a number of additional cases on the island of Rugen and its surroundings. There were also four outbreaks reported of HPAI H5N8 in poultry. Two were in the Northern district of Vorpommern-Rügen: one being a turkey premises of 16,100 birds, and the other a smaller premises of 257 mixed chicken ducks and geese. The other two outbreaks were in Landkreis Rostock (again, in the north of the country), and both were in premises with laying hens, one having approximately 53,000 birds and the other 2,865 birds.

On 13 November, **Denmark** reported five cases of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds. All were in Jutland, in the Danish regions of Aabenraa, Aalborg, Sonderborg, Tonder and Vejle.

Table 1: Current outbreaks of HPAI H5N8 in domestic poultry and captive birds, and cases in wild birds since September, as of 7 am on 17/11/2020, according to official reporting sources. Note that this is a rapidly changing picture, with new disease reports being made on a daily basis.

Country	HPAI H5N8 in poultry	HPAI H5N8 in wild birds	HPAI H5N8 in captive birds	Total	First date reported	Wild bird species affected (where bold, indicates findings in new species of wild birds since our last report)
Germany	6 (+1 H5N5)	192 (+7 HPAI H5 +2 H5N5 +1 Untyped)		209	30/10/2020	Eurasian wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>), Barnacle goose (<i>Anser leucopsis</i>), White-tailed eagle (<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>), Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>), Eurasian buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>), Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), Bean goose (<i>Anser fabalis</i>), European herring gulls, Black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>), Great black-backed gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>), Crane (<i>Gruidae</i>), Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) , Mallard, Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) , Larinae, Mute swans (<i>Cygnus olor</i>) , Canada goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>) , Common eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)
Netherlands	2 (+1 HPAI H5)	30 (+4 HPAI H5N1)	1	38	20/10/2020	Mute swans (<i>Cygnus olor</i>), Barnacle goose (<i>Anser leucopsis</i>), Bean goose (<i>Anser fabalis</i>), Eurasian wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>), Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>), Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>), Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>), Short-Eared owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>), Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), wild duck (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) , Black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) , Common buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>)

Country	HPAI H5N8 in poultry	HPAI H5N8 in wild birds	HPAI H5N8 in captive birds	Total	First date reported	Wild bird species affected (where bold, indicates findings in new species of wild birds since our last report)
United Kingdom	2	3		5	02/11/2020	Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>), and Canada goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>), Wild black swans (<i>Cygnus atratus</i>)
Ireland		1		1	07/11/2020	Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)
Denmark		7 (+1 HPAI H5)		8	05/11/2020	Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>). barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) , black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)
Total	12	251	1	264	20/10/2020	

Other HPAI H5 in Western Europe

Since our last report on 10 November, there have been no new reports of other HPAI H5 subtypes in Western Europe.

Implications for the UK

The presence of H5N8 in the UK was not unexpected given the annual autumn migration, and the rapidly developing epidemiological situation (first in southern Russia during the early autumn, and more recently in Continental Europe). Taken together with the findings of HPAI H5N8 in UK domestic poultry in NW and western (W) England, and the wide geographical distribution of the reports in wild birds (in NW, W and southwest of England), this suggests that circulating HPAI H5N8 virus may be widespread in wild birds.

In GB, the sensitivity of surveillance has been increased, to ensure collection and analyses of targeted species of wild birds (ducks, geese, swans, gulls and birds of prey) known to carry risk of infection with H5 HPAI viruses. Single dead birds of target species, where possible, will be collected and tested. Several systems are in place, including working through NGOs (non-governmental organisations), and members of the public reporting wild bird mortality.

The migration season for wild waterfowl to overwinter in the UK has begun, although numbers may not peak until December/January, depending on the species and the weather conditions in Continental Europe. Generally the Netherlands has a far higher number of wintering water birds than the UK, but cold weather on the Continent can force birds to move across the North Sea to the British Isles.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Animal & Plant Health Agency
Advice Services Team - International Disease Monitoring

Following confirmation of one Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N8 outbreak in 'Cheshire West and Chester' district of England and one Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) H5N2 outbreak near Dover District, England the UK is no longer free from notifiable avian influenza under the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) rules.

Where disease is confirmed, we put in place measures in accordance with Council Directive 2005/94/EC. The EU will put safeguard measures in place, meaning that no trade with the EU in live poultry or poultry products will be permitted from either the Restricted Zone in Kent or the Protection or Surveillance Zone in Cheshire and Herefordshire.

Public Health England has confirmed that the risk to public health is very low, and the Food Standards Agency has said that avian influenza does not pose a food safety risk for UK consumers.

Conclusion

As a consequence of the H5N8 HPAI poultry outbreaks in the UK, and in Germany and the Netherlands; as well as the increasing HPAI H5N8 cases in wild birds in the UK, Netherlands and Germany this week, and the known migration routes on to the UK from these countries: the risk of HPAI incursion in wild birds in the UK is **HIGH**. The overall risk of infection of poultry in the UK is **MEDIUM**; although it should be noted that the risk of introduction to individual premises depends upon the level of biosecurity implemented on farm to prevent direct or indirect contact with wild birds.

In response to the increased risk, an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone has been declared in [England](#), [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#) and the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are urging bird keepers across the UK to maintain and strengthen their biosecurity measures; in order to prevent further outbreaks of avian influenza in the UK.

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 sign of avian influenza to Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301.

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 and; <http://gov.scot/avianinfluenza> for Scotland.

The OIE/FAO International Reference Laboratory/UK National Reference Laboratory at Weybridge has the necessary ongoing proven diagnostic capability for these strains of virus, whether low or high pathogenicity AI, and continually monitors changes in the virus. We will continue to report on any updates on the situation in Europe and, in particular, any

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Animal & Plant Health Agency
Advice Services Team - International Disease Monitoring

changes in disease distribution or wild bird movements which may increase the risk to the UK.

We ask that the public use the Defra helpline (Tel: 03459 33 55 77) to report findings of any dead wild birds. In particular, any wild ducks, wild geese, swans, gulls or birds of prey.

Authors

Dr Francesca Gauntlett

Dr Clare Wild

Anthony Pacey

Charlotte Coxon

References

All outbreaks and cases were taken from the Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS).



© Crown copyright 2020

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.2. To view this licence visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2/ or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animal-diseases-international-monitoring>

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at iadm@defra.gov.uk