

Updated Outbreak Assessment #7

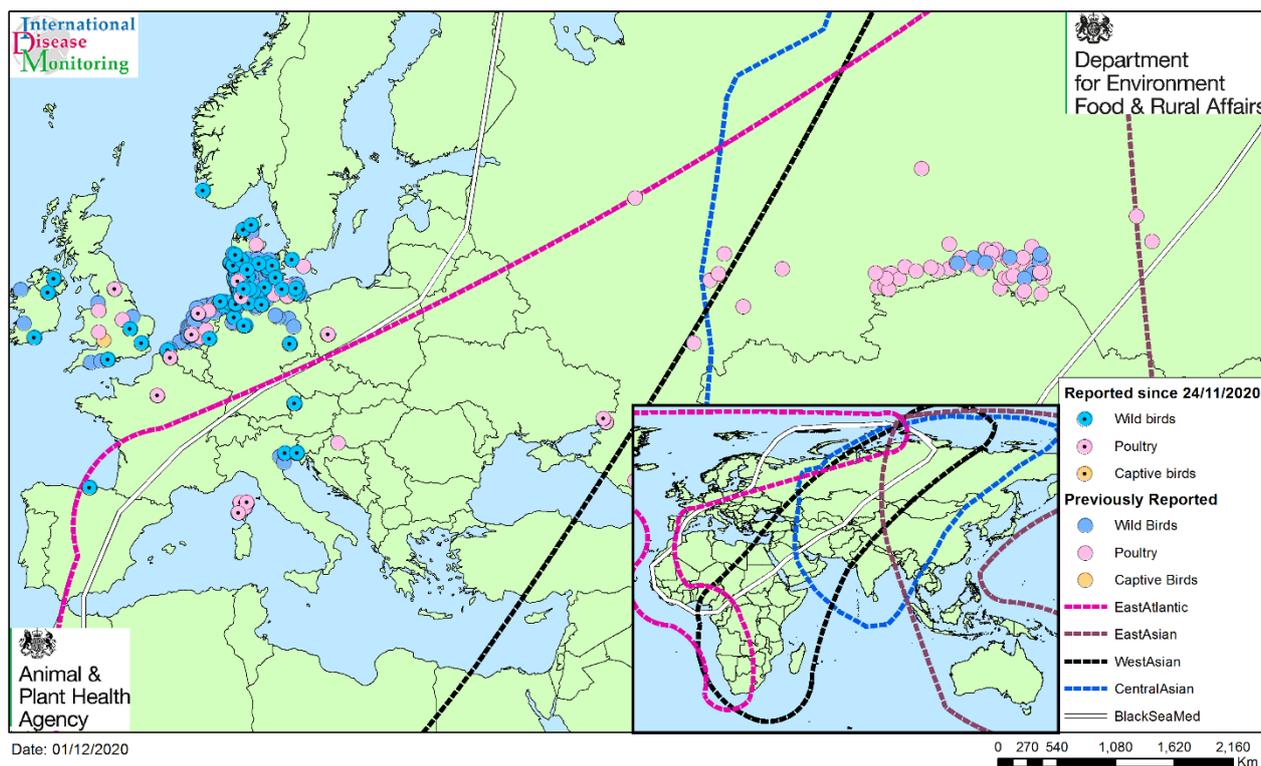
Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the UK, and Europe

01 December 2020

Ref: VITT/1200 HPAI in the UK and Europe

Disease Report

Since our last report on 24 November, in the **United Kingdom** there has been one new outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in poultry and many reports of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds. Elsewhere in Europe, since 24 November, H5N8 has been reported: in poultry and captive birds in Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands and Poland, and, in wild birds in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands Norway, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.



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

Situation Assessment

In the **United Kingdom**, since our last report on 24 November, there have been new reports of HPAI H5N8 in poultry (one report) and wild birds.

On 29 November HPAI H5N8 was confirmed in rearing turkeys at a premises near Northallerton, Hambleton, North Yorkshire. A 3km Protection and 10km Temporary Zone has been put in place around the infected premises.

Described in previous reports, poultry and captive birds at the following sites have tested positive for high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) H5N8:

Date HPAI H5N8 confirmed	Location, County	Description
3 November	near Frodsham, Cheshire	Broiler breeder rearer chickens
10 November	near Leominster, Herefordshire	Broiler breeder chickens
20 November	near Stroud, Gloucestershire	Captive birds
23 November	near Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire	Poultry and captive birds

Wild birds at the following locations have all tested positive for high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) H5N8:

Location, County	Species
near Stroud, Gloucestershire	geese
near Dawlish, Devon	swans
near Weymouth, Dorset	a goose and swans
near Ormskirk, Lancashire	a goose and a buzzard
near Boston, Lincolnshire	geese and ducks
near Poole, Dorset	a swan
near Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire	a gull
near Rochford, Essex	swans

In addition, wild birds at the following locations have also tested positive for avian influenza H5N8, however the pathotype of the strain is yet to be confirmed:

Location, County	Species
near Oxford, Oxfordshire	a goose
near Godalming, Surrey	a goose
near March, Cambridgeshire	a swan
near Nuneaton, Warwickshire	a buzzard
near Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland	geese
near Ulverston, Cumbria	swans
near Blackpool, Lancashire	swans

Wild bird cases are now being reported to OIE and ADNS on a weekly basis. The map in our report (above) shows only the reports of disease that have been made to ADNS to date. For further details, see the report (updated weekly) on findings of HPAI in wild birds in Great Britain, here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/936805/ai-findings-2020.csv/preview

Since our last report on 24 November, there have been no new reports of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds in **Northern Ireland**.

HPAI H5N8 in Western Europe

In **Belgium**, on 27 November, HPAI H5N8 was reported at a large commercial poultry holding (151,600 broiler chickens) in West Flanders, and in a pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), also in West Flanders, on the same date.

Since our last report on 24 November, in **Denmark** there have been 17 further reports of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds (and three other reports of H5 in wild birds).

In **France**, there have been seven new reports of HPAI H5N8. Six of these reports were in Corsica: one report concerned two peacocks at a garden centre (Corse du Sud); and five concerned ornamental birds supplied by the same garden centre (Haute Corse). Also, the supplier of these birds was reported as being the same supplier to the garden centre involved in the reported outbreak last week (in Haute-Corse, the northern part of the island of Corsica). Other birds purchased from the same supplier are being actively traced. In mainland France, in Yvelines, HPAI H5N8 was reported on 24 November in two hens and a goose that died in a pet store in a garden centre. Again, there were reportedly links with the same supplier as in the Corsican outbreaks.

Since our last report on 24 November, in **Germany** there have been 49 new reports of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds. Also, in **Germany** one outbreak of HPAI H5N8 was reported in poultry, in fattening geese; reported on 25 November.

Ireland has reported two cases of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds; a mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) in County Monaghan (in the north east), and a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), in Cork (on the south coast).

In **Italy**, HPAI H5N8 was reported in eight ducks (*Mareca penelope*), that had been hunted. Disease was confirmed on 26 November in the province of Venice, where previously, HPAI H5N8 was reported in a common teal shot in a hunting area (described in the last report).

Since our last report on 24 November, there has been one HPAI H5N8 case reported in wild birds in the **Netherlands**, and, one in captive birds in the Twelve region (species not reported).

In **Norway**, HPAI H5N8 was reported on 29 November in one wild Pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) that was found sick (on 24 November) and submitted for testing when it died.

A high risk area has been identified in all municipalities with a coastline on the border with Sweden (from Rogaland to Viken county). In summary, in high-risk areas, it is forbidden to keep poultry and other birds in captivity outdoors; the use of outdoor water reservoirs for poultry or other captive birds is prohibited; it is forbidden to keep ducks and geese together with other poultry species; markets, shows or exhibitions of poultry or other birds are also forbidden. Poultry and other captive birds kept in high-risk areas may not participate in such events held outside the high-risk areas. In high-risk areas, the use of duck (*Anseriformes*), wader, gull and auk (*Charadriiformes*) decoys is prohibited; it is also forbidden to release bird game. Additionally, it is forbidden to give poultry or other captive birds drinking water from surface water reservoirs that are not protected against wild birds and other animals in high-risk areas (described in full, in Norwegian, at: <https://lovdata.no/forskrift/2005-12-05-1417>).

In **Poland**, on 25 November HPAI H5N8 was confirmed on a large commercial poultry holding (924,185 laying hens). All measures according to Council Directive 2005/94/EC have been implemented.

In **Slovenia**, a mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) was found on 17 November 2020 on the sea shore in the municipality of Piran. H5N8 was confirmed on 23 November, and reported on 24 November. A second report of HPAI H5N8 in a mute swan in the same region was made on 25 November.

In **Spain**, on 19 November, a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) was found moribund on 19 November on the northern coast of Spain, near Santander. HPAI H5N8 was confirmed on 27 November.

Sweden has reported two cases of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds; a barnacle goose, was found in Lund. It was found sick and euthanased on 12 November, and then submitted for testing. Also in Lund, a peregrine falcon collided with a bicycle. It died the following day, and, when submitted for testing, HPAI H5N8 was confirmed on 27 November.

The situation is changing rapidly, and all these numbers and reports represent the official reports made to EU's Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS) at the time of writing.

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 01 December 2020, according to ADNS reporting. Please 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
Belgium	(+1 H5N5)	7		8	17/11/2020
Croatia	1			1	21/11/2020
Denmark	1	53 (+2 HPAI H5N5, +5 HPAI H5)		61	05/11/2020
France	3 (+5 H5)			8	17/11/2020
Germany	10 (+1 HPAI H5N5)	317 (+6 HPAI H5, +11 HPAI H5N5, +1 Untyped)		346	30/10/2020
Ireland		5		5	07/11/2020
Italy		(+3 HPAI H5)		3	21/11/2020
Netherlands	5 (+1 HPAI H5N5)	37 (+4 HPAI H5N1, +1 HPAI H5N5)	6	54	20/10/2020

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Country	HPAI H5N8 in poultry	HPAI H5N8 in wild birds	HPAI H5N8 in captive birds	Total	First date reported
Norway		1		1	29/11/2020
Poland	1			1	24/11/2020
Slovenia		2		2	23/11/2020
Spain		1		1	27/11/2020
Sweden	1	2		3	18/11/2020
United Kingdom	4	7 (+3 HPAI H5)	1	15	02/11/2020
Total	34	468	7	509	20/10/2020

Table 2: Reports of HPAI H5N8 in wild birds by species since September, as of 7 am on 01 December 2020, according to ADNS reporting. *Please note that this is a rapidly changing picture, with new disease reports being made on a daily basis.*

Country	Wild bird species affected
Belgium	Eurasian Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) Eurasian Magpie (<i>Pica pica</i>) European Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) Greater White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons</i>) Mute Swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>) Pink-footed Goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)
Denmark	Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) Brant Goose (<i>Branta bernicla</i>) Common Buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>) Common Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>) Common Moorhen (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>) Eurasian Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) Eurasian Sparrowhawk (<i>Accipiter nisus</i>) Eurasian Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) European Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) Gadwall (<i>Mareca strepera</i>) Greater White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons</i>) Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) Taiga Bean Goose (<i>Anser fabalis</i>)

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Country	Wild bird species affected
Germany	Accipitridae (unidentified) (Accipitridae (incognita)) Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) Brant Goose (<i>Branta bernicla</i>) Canada Goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>) Common Buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>) Common Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>) Common Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>) Crane (unidentified) (<i>Grus (incognita)</i>) Curlew Sandpiper (<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>) Eurasian Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) Eurasian Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) Eurasian Eagle-Owl (<i>Bubo bubo</i>) Eurasian Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) Eurasian Sparrowhawk (<i>Accipiter nisus</i>) Eurasian Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) Eurasian Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) European Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>) Greater White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons</i>) Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) Gull (unidentified) (<i>Larus (incognita)</i>) Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) Mute Swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>) Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) Taiga Bean Goose (<i>Anser fabalis</i>) Tawny Owl (<i>Strix aluco</i>) White-tailed Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>)
Ireland	Eurasian Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) Mute Swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>) Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)
Italy	Eurasian Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) Eurasian Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)
Netherlands	Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) Common Buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>) Eurasian Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) Eurasian Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) Eurasian Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) Greater White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons</i>) Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) Mute Swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>) Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>) Taiga Bean Goose (<i>Anser fabalis</i>)
Norway	Pink-footed Goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)
Slovenia	Mute Swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>)
Spain	Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)
Sweden	Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)

Country	Wild bird species affected
United Kingdom	Black Swan (<i>Cygnus atratus</i>) Brant Goose (<i>Branta bernicla</i>) Canada Goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>) Common Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) Eurasian Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) Mute Swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>)

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 now across Western Europe as described in this report). Taken together with the findings of HPAI H5N8 in UK domestic poultry and captive birds in England, and the wide geographical distribution of the reports in wild birds, circulating HPAI H5N8 virus appears to 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 a 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.

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 Zones 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, also in Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands, and Poland; as well as the increasing HPAI H5N8 cases in wild birds in the UK, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden this week, and the known migration routes to the UK from these countries: the risk of HPAI incursion in wild birds in the UK is **VERY HIGH**. The overall risk of exposure of poultry in the UK is **MEDIUM** (with stringent biosecurity) **TO HIGH** (where there are biosecurity breaches).

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone is in place 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 take additional 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 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.

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References

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

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