

Preliminary Outbreak Assessment #2

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in Europe

17 July 2025

Disease report

Following the first detections of LSD in Italy and France, the disease has continued to circulate in these areas. There are now 26 outbreaks of LSD in Sardinia and 26 outbreaks across 2 departments in France. The source of these incursions remains unknown at present. Our previous outbreak assessment of the situation can be found at: [Lumpy skin disease in Europe - GOV.UK](#).

These are the first detections in Europe since outbreaks in the Balkans in 2018 (according to WOAHP reports). There has been spread of the disease in North Africa since July 2024, in Algeria and Tunisia. Find our preliminary outbreak assessments for other regions: [Lumpy skin disease in North Africa and East Asia - GOV.UK](#).

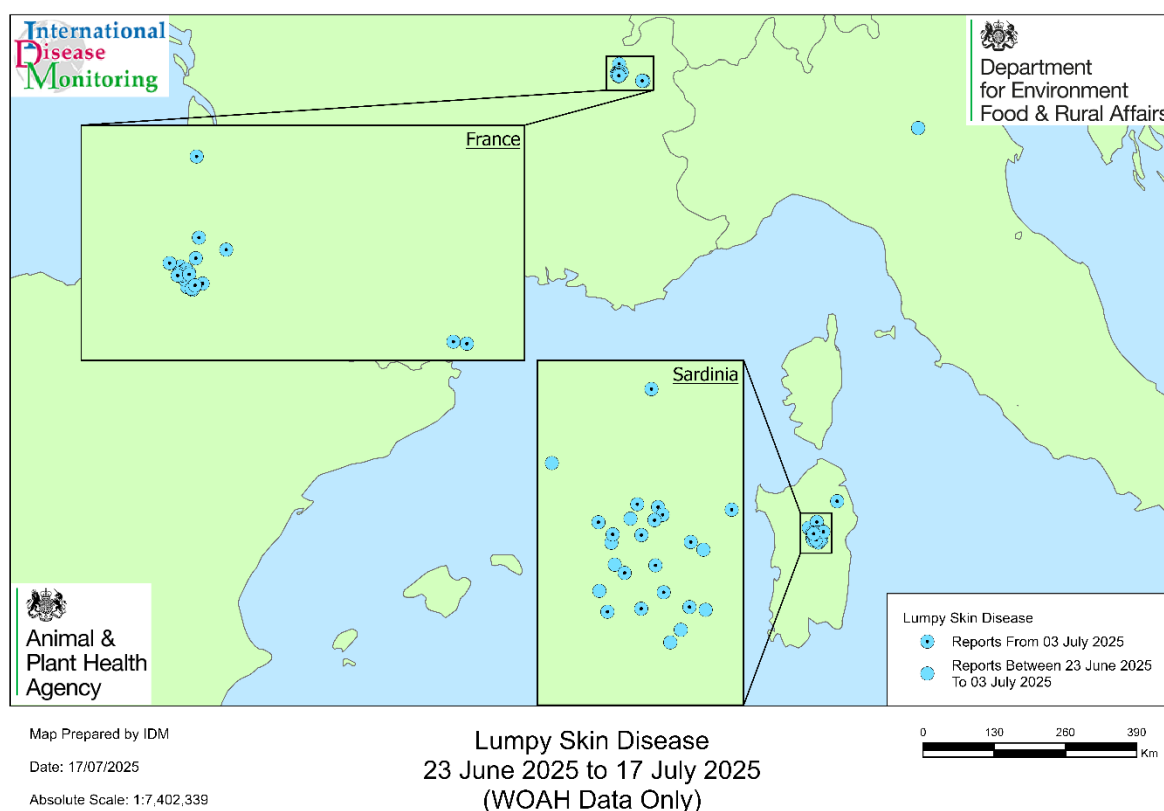


Figure 1: Reports of Lumpy Skin Disease in Italy and France. The map shows outbreaks of LSD reported to WOAHP in Europe from 23 June to 17 July.

Situation assessment

LSD is a pox virus mainly affecting cattle and water buffalo, which is notifiable to the WOA (Eom, Lee and Yoo, 2023). The virus is mainly transmitted by mechanical transmission by biting insect vectors.

The mortality rate is relatively low (typically 1 to 5%) but may reach up to 40% in naive and young animals (Coetzer, 2004). Infection damages the hides and affects beef and milk production (WOA, 2022) and affects export trade.

LSD is endemic within most African countries, with Morocco now being the only country where cases have not been reported (Eom, Lee and Yoo, 2023). In many countries in Africa the true prevalence of LSD is unknown or yet to be studied (Abew, 2024). From 2012, LSD spread through the Middle East, part of south-east Europe, the Balkans, Caucasus, Russia and Kazakhstan (WOA, 2022). According to WOA reports, the last reported cases in the Middle East and the Balkans were from 2019, while Russia continued reporting cases through March 2024. Turkey reported outbreaks through 2023 ([ADIS](#)). Since 2019, it has also been reported in southeast Asia, including Taiwan, China, India, Nepal Bhutan, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea and Thailand (Eom, Lee and Yoo, 2023) (and WAHIS data).

There has not been a case of LSD reported within the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). Lumpy skin disease is difficult to control and eradicate by stamping out of livestock alone and often requires vaccination to eradicate the disease from the national herd.

Italy

Since our last report on 3 July, Italy has confirmed 17 additional outbreaks of LSD in Sardinia (National Veterinary Epidemiological Bulletin ([BENV](#))). While a majority of the outbreaks are clustered in the same communes where outbreaks were initially recorded, there has been some spread. An outbreak in the Padru commune, located over 45km away from the next closest outbreak at the time, was confirmed on 15 July. There have been no further outbreaks in the Lombardy region of Italy after cattle tracing from Sardinia identified a case on 25 June.

Total numbers from the affected farms equals 1,735 cattle. Of these, 166 had clinical signs and 27 died. As of 17 July, 427 animals have been destroyed ([BENV](#)). There are plans to cull all animals from infected premises to help stop spread of the disease ([quotidianosanita.it](#)).

The Italian Directorate General of Animal Health has introduced conditions for animal movements within the restricted area. Movements can only be done after risk assessment and providing that clinical examination of all cattle in the herd does not detect disease, there are negative PCR tests on all animals, and risk mitigation measures, as outlined in Regulation (EU) 2020/687, are taken during transport ([ruminantia.it](#)).

On 16 July, vaccine against LSD arrived in Italy and will be deployed starting next week to help control the outbreak ([quotidianosanita.it](#)).

France

After the initial LSD outbreak in Savoie in France, an additional 25 outbreaks have been reported. Sixteen of these are in Savoie, where the first outbreak occurred, and 9 outbreaks are located in Haute-Savoie (agriculture.gouv.fr).

Around the outbreaks, a 20km protection zone has been established with strict rules around movement of cattle. Around this a 50km surveillance zone has been established. Within this zone, there will be increased veterinary surveillance and restrictions on cattle movement.

After activists blocked depopulation efforts on several farms, France held an emergency meeting of its National Steering Committee for Animal and Plant Health Policy. They validated their strategy of “depopulation by total slaughter of infected outbreaks (epidemiological units) to extinguish the sources of the virus, the establishment of regulated perimeters, and a mandatory vaccination campaign in these regulated areas” (franceinfo.fr).

On 15 July, France received vaccines for LSD. The vaccination campaign will begin on 21 July and will cover all cattle farms in the 50km restricted zone (savoie.gouv.fr).

Part of the 50km surveillance zone extends to include part of the canton of Geneva in Switzerland. As a result, [the federal government plans to vaccinate all susceptible animals \(cattle, buffalo, and bison\) in the surveillance zone](#). Vaccination will be mandatory in the zone. In addition, reinforced veterinary checks and restrictions on animal movements have been applied. The lifting of these measures will depend on the development of the situation in neighbouring France but cannot take place before 29 July 2025 at the earliest.

Impact for Great Britain

Incursion of LSD into Great Britain could occur either by importing infected live cattle or mosquitos or biting flies carrying the virus entering the country and infecting animals present in the area.

No live cattle imports have been identified. Trade in live bovine animals and bovine germinal products is already restricted from France due to the presence of bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease viruses in the country.

As Italy has lost its LSD-free status, the UK has suspended the import of several bovine commodities, including live animals, germplasm, raw milk and raw milk products, offal, hides and skin (unless treated), and animal by products (unless undergoing specific heat treatment). More details can be found on [25 June 2025: Outbreak of lumpy skin disease in Italy - GOV.UK](#). Similar restrictions were brought in for France on 1 July after they lost their LSD-free status. Details can be found on [1 July 2025: Outbreak of lumpy skin disease in France - GOV.UK](#).

Additionally, from 12 April 2025 (due to the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in Europe earlier in the year) [it has been illegal for travellers to bring cattle, sheep, goat, and pig meat, as well as dairy products, from EU countries into Great Britain for personal use \(personal imports\)](#) with very limited exemptions (outlined on [Bringing](#)

[food into Great Britain: Overview](#)). Live animals, germinal products and untreated wool, hair, skins and hides are not permitted for personal import under separate rules.

Biting flies carrying LSD into the UK is another potential route of incursion. Midges from the continent are capable of crossing the Channel and introducing bluetongue virus into the UK. Stable flies, a primary vector for LSD, are capable of being blown distances greater than 13km (Showler 2015). The location of the current outbreaks is too far away for flies to reach UK borders from natural dispersal. There is the possibility of flies being carried on vehicles from Italy or France, but the risk of this is difficult to estimate.

Given the continued presence of LSD in Sardinia and the spread of outbreaks in France, the risk of incursion to GB has increased from very low to **low**.

Conclusion

LSD has continued to spread in Sardinia and France, with 26 outbreaks reported from each country. The incursion of LSD into Italy follows spread in recent years in the North Africa region.

Since the 1 June 2024 there has been no trade in live bovine animals or bovine germplasm collected in Italy or France. Restrictions are being placed on specific bovine products from Italy and France in light of the LSD outbreaks mentioned above. The lifting or maintaining of restrictions are under constant review depending on information that we receive about the outbreaks.

Biting flies are capable of transmitting the disease, although the location of the outbreaks makes this risk pathway less likely.

Considering the ongoing outbreaks and circulation of LSD in these areas, uncertainty in the source of incursion and the slight spread, the current risk level of incursion of LSD into is increased from very low to **low (rare but can occur)**. This reflects the continued occurrence of outbreaks in these areas, which is mitigated by the restricted trade in cattle and bovine germplasm from these countries.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

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