

Preliminary Outbreak Assessment #1

African swine fever in Finland

3 August 2026

Disease report

African swine fever (ASF) has been detected in south-east Finland in two wild boar piglet carcasses and one long bone of a wild boar in a forested area less than 2 km from the Russian border (Figure 1). Reports do not specify how long the remains had been in the forest. The long bone was found several 100 metres away from the piglet carcasses ([Finland confirms - UEVP](#)). This marks a significant geographic expansion of the European epizootic according to [BEACON](#). The wild boar remains, found near Vaalimaa, Virolahti on 24 July 2026 were delivered by a local to the Finnish Food Authority and results were reported by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) on 31 July 2026 ([WAHIS](#)). This is the first time ASF has been detected in Finland, despite the disease's rapid spread in recent years in neighbouring Russia and in nearby Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia (see our [update](#) on 14 July 2026 on ASF in Europe). In Sweden, ASF was first detected in a dead wild boar in September 2023. By September 2024, Sweden was officially recognized as ASF-free by WOAH.

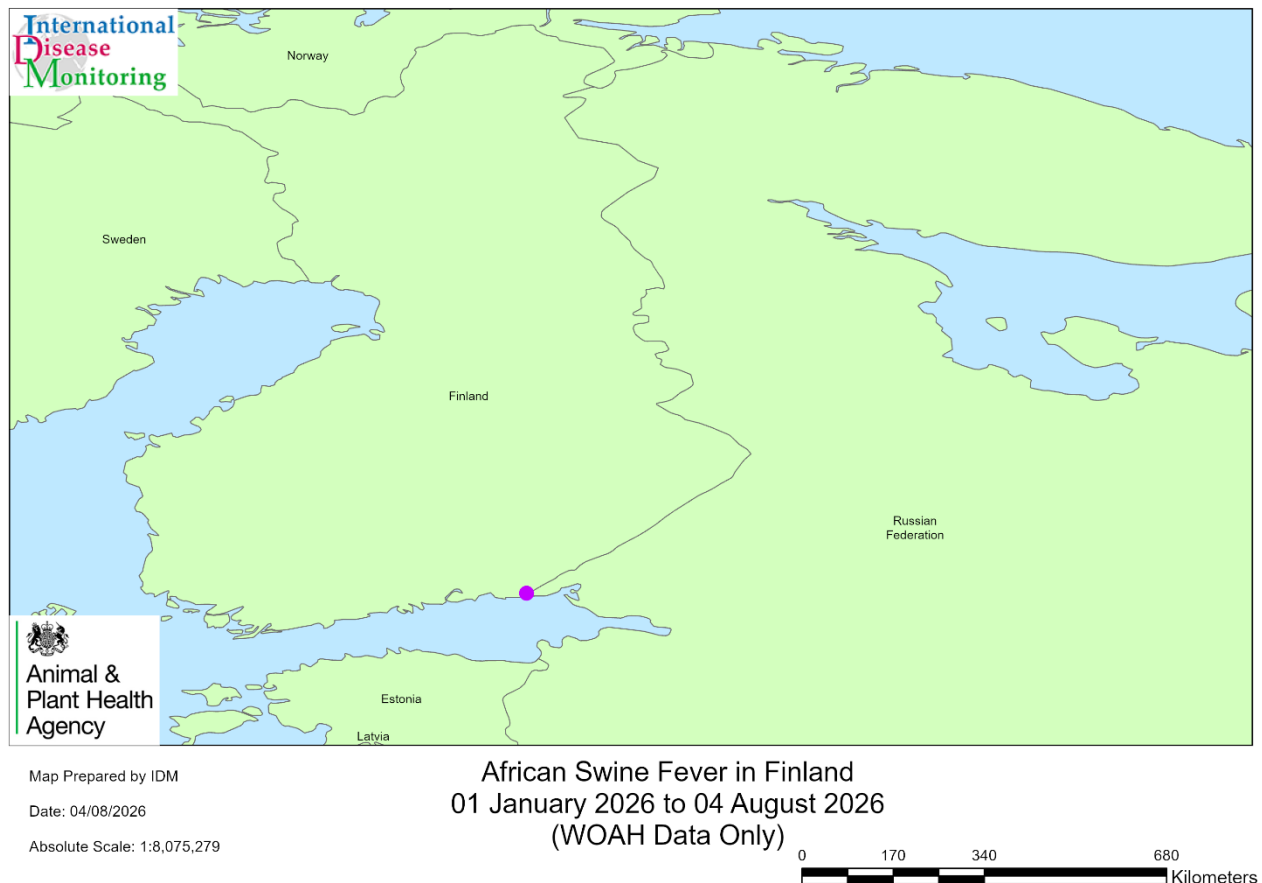


Figure 1: Map of African swine fever cases in wild boar in July 2026 (WOAH data only).

The primary concern is potential spillover to Finland's fully susceptible domestic pig population and the risk of wider, undetected circulation in the local wild boar population. The Finnish Food Authority has established an infection zone around the area where the dead wild boar piglets were found and the movement of pigs in the zone is restricted to prevent further spread ([Finland confirms first-ever African swine fever case](#)). According to the Natural Resources Institute Finland, the country had an estimated 2,380 wild boars at the beginning of January 2026. Enhanced surveillance is underway to determine the prevalence of ASF in wild boars in the area. Hunting, berry picking and forestry work are now restricted in parts of southeastern Finland ([African swine fever restrictions tighten after Finland's first confirmed case | Yle News | Yle](#)).

This detection in Finland at latitude 60.6° North represents the most northerly report of ASF in Europe (Figure 1). The wild boar cases in Norberg in Sweden in November 2023 were slightly lower latitude (60.1° North). In 2021, cases of ASF in western Russia were reported at a higher latitude (62.0° North).

Conclusions

WOAH data (see our [update](#) for ASF in Europe) show cases of ASF ongoing in wild boar in Estonia and the Baltic States. Thus in terms of the risk to Great Britain, the detection of

ASF in wild boar carcasses in Virolahti, Finland (Figure 1) does not represent a large geographical jump, merely further spread from a region near where ASF has been present for almost a decade. We consider that the risk of entry of ASF virus in live animals and products of animal origin (POAO) from affected countries including Finland, remains unchanged at **MEDIUM (occurs regularly)**. The risk of ASF entering Great Britain, from the human-mediated pathway and moving porcine POAO, remains at **HIGH (occurs very often)** as discussed in our [previous assessment](#) for ASF in Europe.

Swill feeding any animal, whether pigs, poultry, ruminants, or wildlife is illegal and has the potential to cause substantial harm. We would like to emphasise to all pig keepers, pig producers, smallholders, and the general public to ensure pigs are not fed catering waste, kitchen scraps or pork products, thereby observing the swill feeding ban.

All pig keepers, whether commercial holdings or not, should remain vigilant and ensure that any visitors or seasonal workers have not had any recent contact with pigs, pig products, pig premises, wild boar (including hunting) or equipment associated with such activities in the affected regions in Europe or other affected parts of the world. As with all biosecurity, these measures are only as effective as the people using them, so proper training should be provided.

Pig keepers and veterinarians should remind themselves of the clinical signs for ASF. Any suspect cases must be reported promptly. Read guidance about [African swine fever: how to spot and report the disease](#) for more information.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

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