

Updated Outbreak Assessment number 9

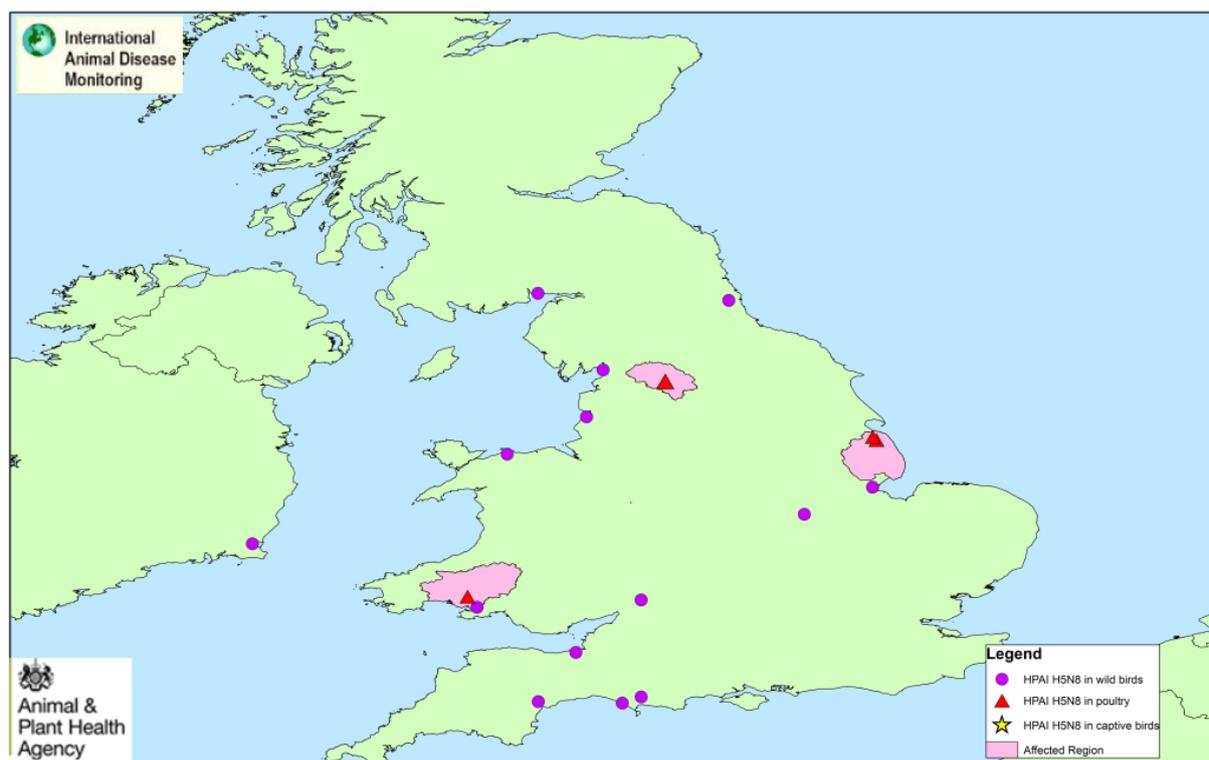
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N8 in the UK and Europe

19 January 2017

Ref: VITT/1200 Avian Influenza in UK & Europe

Disease report

The zones around the premises in West Wales will be merged on 25th January into one restriction zone. No onward spread has been found during the patrols in the zone.



Date Prepared 15/01/2017

Outbreaks of H5N8 HPAI in poultry, captive and wild birds
October 2016 - January 2017

Actual Scale 1:7,500,000

Map prepared by IDM

0 30 60 120 180 240 Km

On the 5th January, a veterinary investigation in Craven district, North Yorkshire, started on a backyard premises. Chickens which were not housed and had been mixing with a small number of ducks had shown clinical signs and increased mortality. On the 6th January, H5N8 HPAI was confirmed and restrictions including 3 and 10km zones were put in place. Samples were also taken from wild mallard ducks, released (wild) pheasants and released (wild) ducks at a gamebird establishment next door. The wild ducks tested positive for

H5N8 HPAI. Primary C&D has been completed and the zones will be merged on the 31st January. There are no large commercial premises in the PZ and no trade recorded either to or from the holdings to Member States or third countries.

On the 15th January a second commercial turkey farm in East Lindsey, Lincolnshire reported increased mortality in one of two sheds to fattening turkeys. Samples were taken and tested positive for both cloacal and oropharyngeal swabs for H5N8. The CVO confirmed disease and restriction zones were put in place. The farm itself was within the SZ for IP1, however given the time since the zones and tracings windows were identified and the rapid onset of clinical signs in highly susceptible stock, it is highly likely this is a new incursion from indirect contact with an infected wild bird.

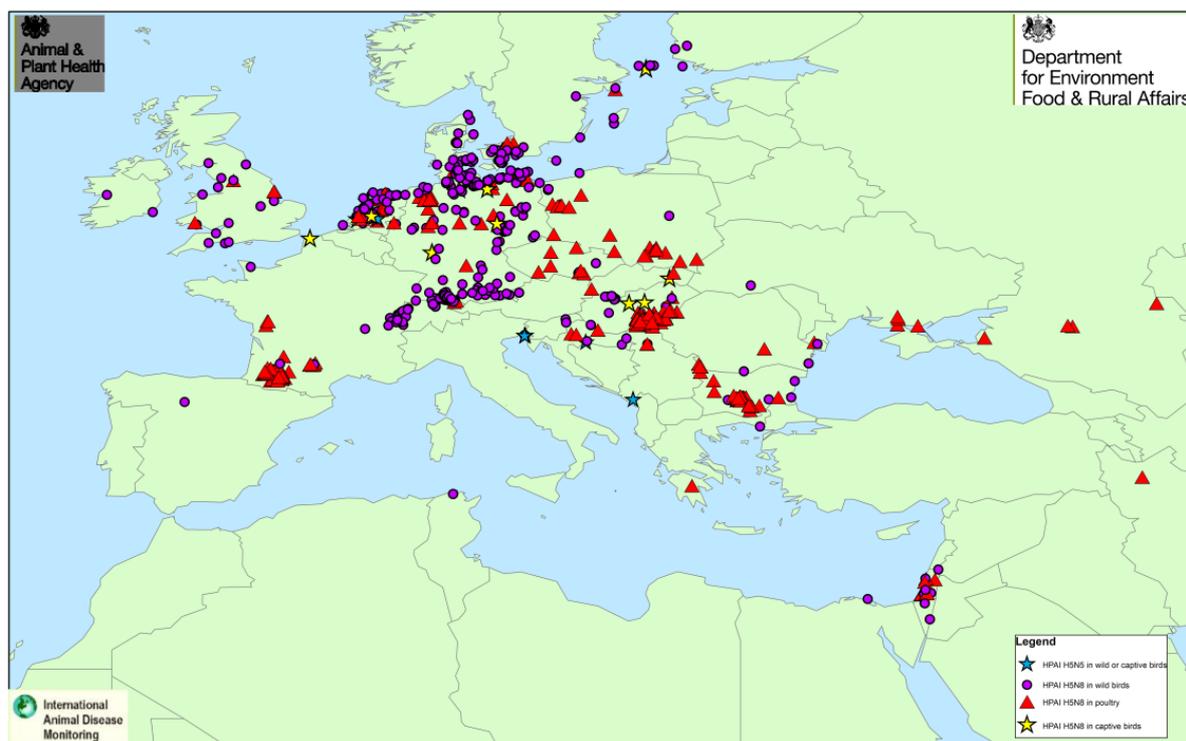
Epidemiological investigations conclude there are no links between the cases in North Yorkshire, Carmarthenshire and the first case in East Lindsey.

A GB-wide Prevention Zone remains in place until the end of February 28th, at which time it will be reviewed and the effectiveness of the measures compared to the risk level will be considered. Within the Prevention Zone poultry keepers (including those of small or backyard, non-commercial flocks and captive birds) are required to keep a high level of biosecurity, to keep species separate, feed under a roof with commercial feed, provide clean drinking water and where practicable, to house birds; in addition, the general licence for bird gatherings has been amended, such that gatherings with poultry or captive birds of the anseriforme and galliforme orders are prohibited.

As expected, more findings of wild birds testing positive for the H5N8 HPAI virus have been made. All wild bird positives will be published on a weekly basis on the APHA website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/avian-influenza-in-wild-birds-winter-2016-to-2017>. Only exceptional reports in new regions or unusual wild bird findings (ie a change to the disease epidemiology) will be officially reported on an ad hoc basis.

Situation assessment

New countries in the EU reporting disease in wild birds are Italy, Slovenia and Spain, while Greece as now reported an outbreak in domestic poultry.



Date Prepared 17/01/2017

Outbreaks of H5N8 HPAI in poultry, captive and wild birds
October - January 2017

Actual Scale 1:25,000,000

Map prepared by IDM

Overlay: the wild bird migration flyways

0 170 340 680 1,020 1,360 Km

In addition, Croatia, Netherlands Italy and Montenegro has also reported H5N5 HPAI. France has started to depopulate the Gers, Landes and part of the Haute Pyrenees regions of ducks for gavage production because of the level of spread within the producers. During this process more cases are being reported as birds are tested at culling.

The risk level for the UK is still **“HIGH”** for an incursion of an infected wild bird, but now that we have wild bird findings, our level of uncertainty has reduced and the geographic area where we expect more findings in wild birds, is wider. The risk to poultry on individual premises is still **“LOW TO MEDIUM”** dependent on the level of on-farm biosecurity. The widespread location of the positive wild birds suggests that we should consider the whole of the UK is a risk area for wild bird infection but that areas with populations of waterfowl species may carry a greater risk proportionally in terms of risk level for poultry premises.

As a result of the increase in positive findings in wild birds in Europe, we ask that the public use the **Defra helpline (Tel: 03459 33 55 77)** to report findings of dead wild birds. In particular, any wild ducks, wild geese, swans, gulls or birds of prey and where more than five birds of any species are found dead in the same location.

Further information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu> including updated biosecurity advice for poultry keepers which they should take note of: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#prevention-zone>

Conclusion

The findings in wild birds in GB is not surprising given the continued level of reporting in other Member States and therefore the likelihood of circulating virus in wild birds. In cold weather, the virus will remain infectious in certain media, such as water or on some surfaces so attention to contaminated areas and regular disinfection is important. We will continue with the epidemiological investigations on the premises and report any additional findings to the OIE and EU, as appropriate.

We would like to remind all poultry keepers that there are several pathways for the introduction of any notifiable avian disease into a poultry farm: housing alone will not be enough to reduce the risk of some of these pathways. Environmental contamination will remain as a significant hazard, especially if wild waterfowl or gulls have regular access to the site, or contaminate the local area around the houses, so personal biosecurity is key to helping prevent contamination from being brought into a poultry house.

We will continue to report on the situation

Authors

International Disease Monitoring team

References

For all disease outbreaks, more information is available on the OIE website at http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Diseaseinformation/WI

See also:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu> ;

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/poultry/bird-gatherings-advice/?lang=en> ;

<http://gov.scot/avianinfluenza>

For up-to-date information on the situation in the EU, also see the Commission website at https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/avian-influenza_en

See our interactive map at <https://iadm.carto.com/me>



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